

THE “*CONDER*” TOKEN

COLLECTOR’S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR’S CLUB
Volume XIV Number 4 Winter, 2010 Consecutive Issue #54



Liberty and Not Slavery—A Hope for Peace
“May Pitt Meet His Just Reward”
The London Corresponding Society

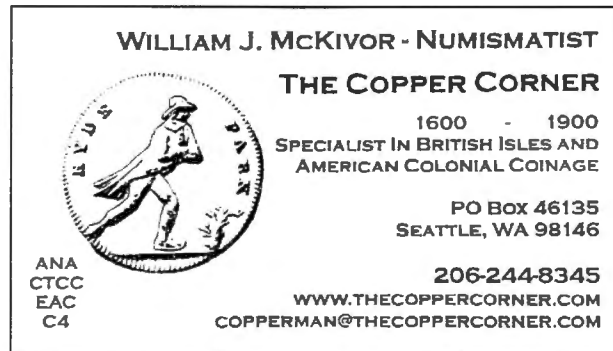
BILL McKIVOR—CTCC #3.

Web-- www.thecoppercorner.com

E-mail Copperman@thecoppercorner.com

New list #59 out in JANUARY

—Ask for yours today—



Highlights of the January, 2010 list #59

Many new 18th Century token offerings---this list contains none of the tokens listed from my last list. You will always find a fresh “crop” each time.

Paper Money---a short offering of paper money from the Birmingham Workhouse, very rare items once belonging to W. J. Davis, the author of the first book on 19th Century tokens. Issued in 1808, very few known.

Unofficial Farthings---from a group of nearly 500 purchased last winter, these will be offered as we go along. Many quite rare tokens at the right prices.

Historical medals, coronations, visits, a group of rare ballooning medals, and all sorts of unusual pieces to add to your collections. Ask for a list today!!

**THE COPPER CORNER
Buying and Selling!!!**

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE,
NEW MATERIAL ON EACH LIST,
17TH, 18TH, AND 19TH Century tokens,
British medals, books, and unusual items
for sale. Get yours today, just send your
e-mail to:**

Copperman@thecoppercorner.com



Bill McKivor and Mrs. Tottington

<u>Volume XIV Number 4</u>	<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	<u>Winter 2010</u>	<u>Consecutive Issue #54</u>
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------------

President's Message	Larry Gaye	Page 3
Introduction by the Editor	Jerry Bobbe	Page 4
The Face on the Token	Michael Grogan	Page 5
Unlisted 1792 Birmingham Mining and Copper Company Halfpenny	Frank Van Valen	Page 8
Tails from the Hive	Jerry Bobbe	Page 10
Introducing a New Edge for Middlesex 953	R. Stanley	Page 13
A Slippery Slope.... Down Which We Must Not Travel	Alan Judd	Page 14
My October 2009 UK Trip: A Study of Contrasting Realities	Jerry Bobbe	Page 15
Seven New Varieties of Camac Tokens	Gregg A. Silvis	Page 18
'Peter' Skidmore: The Man Who Never Was	D.W. Dykes	Page 22
Letters To The Editor		Page 34
Token Congress May 2010 Information		Page 39
Officer Directory, Membership Changes		Page 40
The Token Exchange and Mart		Page 41

President's Message

by Larry Gaye

I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year and a most excellent 2010. Of course, collecting tokens and coins is a hobby and an indispensable part of our leisure lives. It is a place of respite and enjoyment, and at least for a little while, a place we might nurture our curiosity for knowledge.

My goal for this quarter is to get the website updated as both a resource and a viable communications venue. With the assistance of Kyle Knapp, our webmaster, this will be a valuable tool for the current members, as well as a recruiting device to draw in new contacts. Building and retaining membership is important to the life's blood of any organization, and we here at CTCC-Central strive our best to offer something worth passing on to others.

Please send your comments via email or post. They are important to us. Unless we hear from you, we won't know how we are doing or what you might want to see in this publication. Rest assured that we carefully read all your comments, however if you do not wish them printed in a future Journal, please simply let us know.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the CTCC Journal. "This is my hobby: I do it for fun." Cheers!

INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR

Jerry Bobbe – CTCC #4

In your hands is another terrific issue of the CTCC Journal, only made possible by the wonderful stories and articles brilliantly supplied by our many scholarly members. We thank Mike Grogan, Frank Van Valen, the ever reliable Gregg Silvis, Alan Judd, Russell Stanley, yours truly, and most of all Dr. David Dykes, who through the generous permission of the author and the British Numismatic Society, has submitted to our club his marvelous epic expose on the mysterious Mr. Skidmore. This important work is of such great length that we are required to split it into two Journals, with the first half now in your very hands. Enjoy!

Please keep those articles coming, and this club will only prosper and grow in the future. Our fantastic Conder series has it all; with unparalleled rarity, history, beauty, superb grade level, and reasonable prices; but as of yet still inclusive of those uncharted territories we all love to explore. Do your own research. Just dive in and go for it! Then please report your findings back to us!

We much appreciate John Fisher for his past fine efforts as publisher. However, due to serious health issues, he has decided to pass along that chore to Dr. Gary Siro, who was kind enough to accept the position. We here at Journal headquarters thank Gary, and we wish John all the best.

As for Dr. Siro; he and Elly are fully settled into their new home just north of the Columbia River in Washington state, where he has been busy putting together the 2010 edition of his collection CD. Where else could one view almost 4000 full colour token images, all properly attributed and in very high grades? Check out his ad and purchase your copy today.

And while you are at it, read the ad for the amazing new Conder file from Mike Dlugosz. This incomparable and passionate project surely took years to prepare, and it will undoubtedly be a work to forever benefit our specialty. It has the possibility of bringing in many new potential collectors, and to forever change the “playing field” in regards to eighteenth century tokens. Truly the future is now here! I highly recommend both Mike’s and Gary’s products; as they are sure to become essential tools for any serious student of the Conder series. Bravo gentlemen!

Still another exciting token event is the unveiling of the much anticipated and improved CTCC website, courtesy of the remarkable Kyle Knapp. It is a wonderful thing, with the inclusion of many new features and open ended possibilities. We will continue to build upon the site. Kyle and I spent quite a bit of time together recently in England. I can safely tell you that his numismatic and technical abilities are quite extraordinary; plus he is one heck of a terrific guy!

The next Token Congress will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia on the 13th-15th of May, 2010. It is being organized by the very capable team of Alberto Washington and Gary Groll. A Token Congress is an event not to be missed. In this Journal, read about what *you* missed in Guildford, see the page about the upcoming Congress, and then consider attending this one yourself.

On a very sad note, my dear friend and CTCC member Doug McHenry has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. He is a long-time collector of superb high grade Conders, many bought from me decades ago. Doug and Marie have decided to sell the approximately 400 absolutely beautiful tokens through the Goldberg’s auction firm in their pre-Long Beach sale at the end of this month. All the tokens are now graded by NGC. Contact them at www.goldbergcoins.com or at 800-978-2646 for information, online bidding, or a catalog.

I wish once again to thank my good buddy Larry Gaye for his fabulous token photography featured in both Mike Grogan’s and my articles, as well as the cover image of the Middx D&H 290.

As always, please send any future CTCC Journal articles, information, or comments to me at my personal email address: jbobbe@comcast.net.

THE FACE ON THE TOKEN

John Thelwall - Patriot or Patsy?

Michael Grogan - CTCC #48

Conder token collectors know John Thelwall best as a political radical who appears on a series of Thomas Spence's tokens, Middlesex 865-872. Thelwall was certainly a notorious radical, but he is less well remembered as a poet, philosopher, playwright, orator, elocutionist and the founder of scientific speech therapy in Great Britain. He enjoyed the friendship of notable men such as William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Hazlitt, Charles Lamb, Robert Southey, and William Wordsworth while under suspicion of sedition and treason for his political activities. These dual roles would lead him to both literary fame and prison.



John Thelwall was born July 27, 1764 in London's Covent Garden. His father, a silk merchant, died when John was nine and he was raised by his mother through a series of schools and apprenticeships. In 1787, Thelwall published his first book, "Poems upon Various Subjects," which was favorably reviewed by "Critical Review" and led to his becoming editor of the "Biographical and Imperial Magazine." In 1791, he benefited financially by marrying 17 year old Susan Vellum and then changed his life forever when he joined the radical "London Corresponding Society" in 1792.

"The London Corresponding Society" (LCS) was founded in 1792 by John Frost and Thomas Hardy, with the goal of parliamentary reform and increased representation of the working class. Thelwall gave speeches sponsored by the LCS against the policies of William Pitt the Younger and the Tory government. The LCS went too far for the government on April 14, 1794 at Chalk Farm while discussing the opportunity of a new "Convention" of the various corresponding societies. Some members other than Thelwall gave inflammatory anti-Tory speeches and the authorities took their opportunity to act. Several prominent LCS members, including Thomas Hardy, John Horne Tooke and John Thelwall, were arrested and charged with high treason. Thelwall was imprisoned in the Tower of London and in Newgate awaiting trial. During these months he continued his literary career with a book of poems written in the Tower, Poems

Written in Close Confinement. While

confinement in the Tower was barely tolerable, Newgate was much worse. Thelwall wrote, "Whatever little comfort might have been enjoyed in the Tower was now entirely gone...Richter was absolutely confined in one of the condemned cells and I in the dead-hole or charnel-house, the common receptacle for the putrid carcasses of felons who die of diseases in the goal." He was ultimately removed to a better cell.



The Defendants: Tooke and Hardy



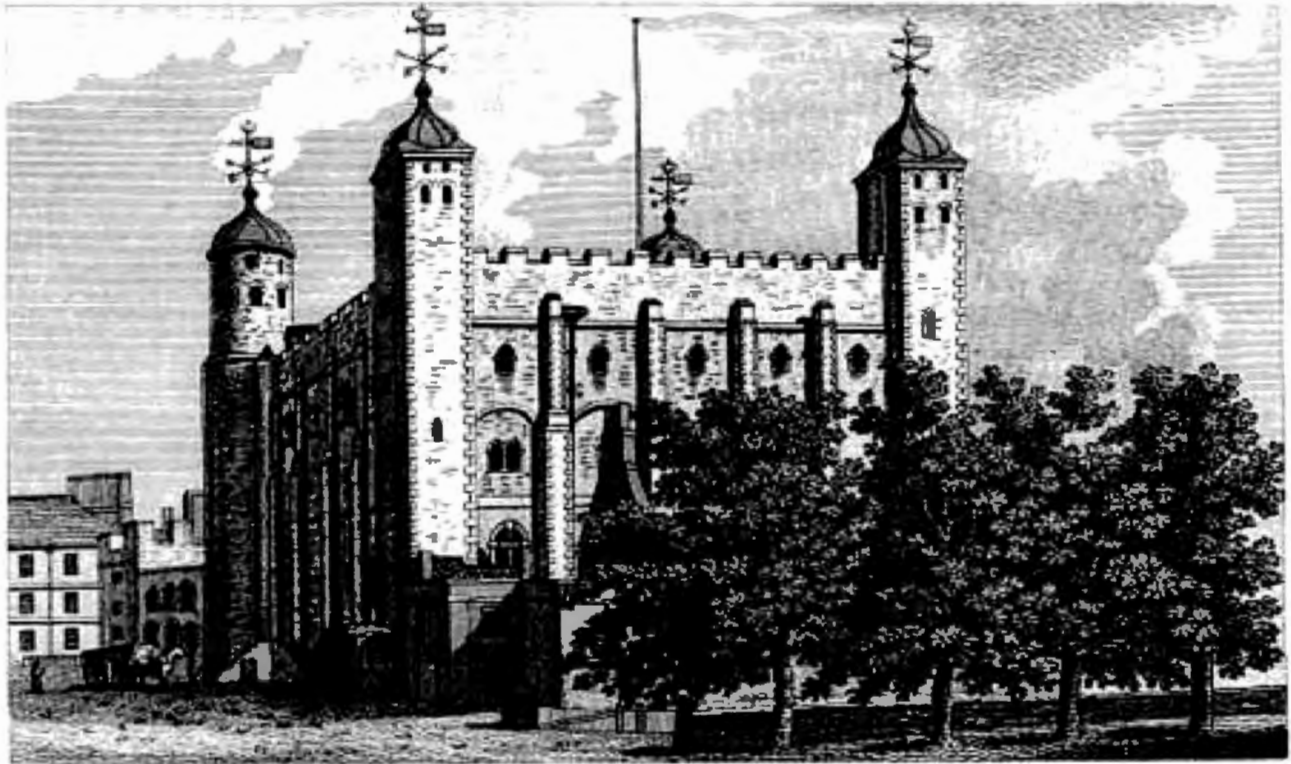
Erskine and Gibbs in defense of the Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights.



The Treason Trials of 1794 began on October 28, 1794. Thelwall was prosecuted by Lord Eldon and brilliantly defended by Thomas Erskine and Vicary Gibbs. The defense convinced the jury that the prosecution's case had no merit and Thelwall was acquitted to great public acclaim. Each of the defendants was acquitted or had the charges against them dismissed.

Thelwall resumed his political activities after his release from prison. On October 26, 1795, he spoke to an audience estimated to be more than 100,000 people at the General Meeting of the London Corresponding Society. This moment was brilliantly portrayed by political cartoonist James Gillray.





The Tower of London

Despite being closely watched by government spies, Thelwall gave twice-weekly lectures promoting political reform. These speeches were published in Thelwall's journal, "The Tribune." He also wrote a book, Rights of Nature, which was published in 1796. Eventually Thelwall retreated from public life and became a farmer in Wales. This agricultural experiment was a failure, and John began a new career lecturing on elocution, speech impediments and oratory.

He opened a school in Liverpool and moved it to London in 1806. There he taught students elocution, speech therapy and liberal arts. When his wife died in 1816, Thelwall created a scandal by quickly marrying one of his young students. Controversy was always his companion. He then returned to politics as the editor of three publications advocating parliamentary reform. John Thelwall died on February 17, 1834, while on a lecture tour.

His legacy continues today on our Conder tokens and in University projects. In 2006, The University of West England began a restoration project on his grave and in 2009 his play "The Fairy of the Lake" was performed by the Dalhousie University Theatre. He was a most remarkable man.



Two very differing sides of a political issue.

Unlisted 1792 Birmingham Mining and Copper Company Halfpenny

From Previously Unseen Obverse and Reverse Dies,
With Edge Lettering Unique in the BMCC Series

Frank Van Valen - Wolfeboro, NH - CTCC # 78

As anyone in the *Conder Token Collector's Club* who knows me well can tell you, my interest in the Conder token field is narrow, at least as far as the pieces I actually collect. Sure, I own numerous Conders from various counties, many with edge clips or other abnormalities, and besides, who could resist the grasshopper on Mr. Stinton's issue? But my real love in the Conder series is County Warwickshire, D&H-73 through 118 with some other related issues such as the later Warwickshire farthings. I specialize in the issues of the *Birmingham Mining and Copper Company* in all its many guises and incarnations. To date I have 132 pieces in my collection—or hoard if you prefer—with 59 different D&H varieties. The average grade is easily nice EF or finer though there are some low-grade fillers that will be upgraded as specimens become available, but typically nice EF or better is the grade across the board. Except for, of course, the token around which this article revolves.

For the record, I have collected the BMCC series since 1979 when I bought my first piece on a bid board at Van's Coins in Tempe, Arizona. That story was recounted back in the early days of the CTCC Journal in an article coaxed out of me by Wayne Anderson, one of the founding fathers of our club. All the boring details of my love affair with the BMCC series are recounted there.

On a recent eBay search I spotted the token in question. After looking at the photos, my first impulse was that it was either a D&H-103 or a 110, as the uppermost leaves in the wreath on Britannia's head form a distinctive trident-like three-leaf display that nearly intersects the baseline of the peripheral lettering on both those varieties, but more about the exact diagnostics of the present piece follows. I knew after just a few moments with my trusty D&H opened in front of me that I was onto something new, and I bid accordingly. Owing to the grade not a single other collector was interested and I bought the piece for its ridiculously low opening bid. For now let's suffice it to say that I have dubbed the new discovery piece D&H-103.5—the new number follows the “my discovery, my numbering system” rule.

The discovery example of D&H-103.5 is in Good-VG or so, choice despite the low grade, well-worn medium golden tan with a few tiny rim bruises but no major marks. The obverse rim is tight to the tops of BIRMINGHAM MINING and intersects the centers of AND COPPER COMPANY and then grazes the bottoms of the date numerals. The top of the B and R punches used in the obverse legend are broken, the first M is widely double-punched, and several raised die lines run diagonally through BIRM. The three leaf points at the top of Britannia's wreath are distinctly *above* the baseline of the legend, noticeably more so than for either D&H-103 or 110. The viewer's right side of the fasces is directly beneath and





nearly touching the first upright of the N in AND. The date itself is nothing short of grotesque in my opinion. The 1 is broad and stocky and tips somewhat to the right, its top higher than the following 7, which is thin and shallow with a short tail and is upright compared to the other date numerals; the 9 is comparatively huge, tips to the right, and is much taller than either the 1 or 7, and its lower loop is larger than its upper loop; the fancy curlicue 2 is nearly as large as the 9 and is tilted dramatically to the right, its upper curve is broken at the top, and the upper curve and base are closed by a die line that may represent an overdate, as what could be the bottom of a 1 is seen at the bottom of the 2.

The reverse is the standard stork-on-cornucopia design common to the series. The rim is tight to the tops of FPENNY PAYABLE AT, with AT weak from wear, the stork's head between Y and P, closer to P. The tip of the cornucopia is beneath the lowest right serif of the L in PAYABLE. What makes this reverse stand out is the leaf structure around the H in HALFPENNY, an area that fig-

ures prominently in many of the varieties in the BMCC series. On the new discovery the leaves around that letter are completely unlike any other variety in the series. While virtually all of the varieties except a very few have leaves that engage both uprights of the H in HALFPENNY, the foliage in the cornucopia display is vastly different on this discovery piece. There are three distinct leaves at the viewer's left of the cornucopia base, the lowest of these touching the viewer's left upright of the H directly below. The other upright of the H is untouched by leaves and is framed by a large inverted V-shaped area of open space in the design. To the viewer's right of the upright is another group of leaves, again, unlike anything on any pictured BMCC reverse in Dalton and Hamer, with none of the leaves touching or even close to the upright of the H.

The edge reads PAYABLE IN LIVERPOOL OR BRISTOL, perhaps not an uncommon edge style in the overall Conder series, but one that is currently *unique* to the Birmingham Mining and Copper Company series. The token's weight is 114.6 grains, light but accountably so owing to its lengthy stay in circulation. The finest D&H-103 in my collection, a choice AU with some mint red, weighs in at 155.1 grains. Listed as the first of the counterfeit issues in the series, D&H-103 is a good gauge and suggests the discovery piece is one of the later low-weight counterfeits and not one of the earlier genuine pieces which tend to weigh in at 190+ grains in high grade.

As you can imagine, the only thing that exceeds the excitement of finding this variety is the knowledge that I own it! I now know how U.S. large cent specialists must feel when they find a new Sheldon-NC (Non-Collectable, owing to its rarity) variety or a half dollar specialist who finds a new Overton variety. I'm sure this new discovery is important to some, but as my buddy Jerry Bobbe pointed out in a tongue-in-cheek manner the last time we spoke: "Frank, it's a great discovery and you owe the *Journal* an article, just don't get too excited, you might be the only guy in the world who cares!"

Anyway, friends and fellow CTCC members, I hope this discovery is ample proof that there are many more things under the sun than we currently know about in the Conder series. Some day, with a little luck and perseverance, I hope each of you will have an opportunity to add a *unique, new variety* to your Conder token collection.

TAILS FROM THE HIVE

THE LIBERTY CAT/SPENCE IN JAIL MARRIAGE – THE DEATH OF TWO DIES

Jerry Bobbe

In the years 1787-1793 Thomas Spence had been arrested three times for “seditious libel,” notably for offering copies of *“The Rights of Man”* by Thomas Paine. He was subsequently acquitted and released each time in short order. But now the Crown was on to him, and not long after Spence made the move from Northumberland to London to open a book and saloop stall, he was again arrested on 29th May, 1794, this time on a trumped up charge of high treason for offering his penny weekly entitled *“Pig’s Meat, or Lessons for the Swinish Multitude.”* Spence spent seven months in a Newgate cell, compliments of the corrupt Crown and their mindless liberty quashing goons. He was ultimately released without trial on 22nd December. Spence promptly opened a new shop, the *“Hive of Liberty,”* at No.8 Little Turnstile, High Holborn, and set about on his remarkable year and a half of token production. He was eager to get about the business of riling the Crown and firing up the swinish multitude with tokens displaying his own unique brand of political sarcasm. Expert engraver Charles James was engaged to cut to order nearly all of Spence’s requested dies. Mr. Skidmore was employed to help with some of the individual strikings, as 1795 was certainly a stressful year and Spence was seriously lacking the sufficient time or energy to strike all his own tokens. Of course, being a profit opportunist, Skidmore began to serendipitously strike various “Spence” mules of his own by early 1796, with the floodgates blowing wide open later in that year when he was able to buy up all the remaining dies and flans from a sickly and broke Thomas Spence. Now, more than two centuries later, it can be a challenge to distinguish between an authentic Spence striking, and a Skidmore proxy imitation. However, the hard bitten among us do see the difference, as authentic Spence tokens possess a peculiar personality and charm, particularly in regards to their less than expert manufacture; all very unlike the typical Skidmore production.

Spence frequently sang a song highly characteristic of himself and his *“Glorious Plan,”* including a sentiment denoting the pleasing state of being “free as a cat.” With the previous misery at Newgate still all too fresh in his mind, and his strong lifelong admiration for cats; it was a natural for him to marry the two themes on one of his very first token issues. Middlesex D&H 850 combines the wonderful “Liberty Cat” with a *“Before the Revolution”* jailed self portrait, which illustrates a shackled and emaciated Thomas Spence gnawing upon a bone in his Newgate cell. That prisoner die had already been used in the production of Middlesex D&H #’s 790b, 849, 851, 852, 852a, 853, and 855a, without mishap, and all while in a perfect undamaged State I. But when Spence attached his new “Liberty Cat” as the hammer die onto his coining press, the mechanism failed, and the cat came crashing down upon the prisoner, causing a thin fracture in the metal of the anvil die. These malfunctions were a recurring problem with many of his token issues, involving a number of different Spence marriages, oftentimes giving true meaning to the phrase “impressed denticles.” All of the resultant fascinating abnormalities greatly add to the present day collector enjoyment of this amazing series, and through these flaws diagnostics and emission sequences might be revealed and confirmed.



Prisoner Die—State I



Middlesex D&H 850b—State II obverse—light bisecting crack

Due to that accident, there are presently no perfect die examples known of any of the three edge variants of Middlesex D&H 850. Still, this is merely an educated guess, as D&H 850a is yet unknown to me. It is listed as being struck upon a milled edge flan, which characteristically are of a somewhat different size and thickness than the normally used “Spence x” blanks. Therefore, because of the unusual pressure in the coining chamber, it is possible that very piece might have been the exact striking which caused the attachment problem in the first place. Or, maybe D&H 850a was the last of this marriage, terminating the life of the Liberty Cat for good. We will not know for sure until that token turns up. So as of this moment, to my eyes, the RRR plain-edged D&H 850b is the very first of this marriage; the earliest state seen. It displays a purr-fect and well struck Liberty Cat, combined with State II of Spence’s prisoner portrait; now with a light north/south bisecting crack. Middlesex D&H 850, struck upon the usual “Spence x” flans, were next in line. With those, the deterioration relentlessly progressed, comprising my States II through V. This ongoing damage to the prisoner die eventually caused a serious warping of the “Liberty Cat,” ultimately rendering that die useless, and in need of replacement by the “Freedom Cat” for all subsequent cat marriages. It is of further interest that the State IV examples have only been noted with bronzed surfaces, while all the other states are not. Spence apparently loved creating interesting tokens for the swinish multitude, and he frequently enjoyed experimenting with that particular exotic surface texture, though he was never able to duplicate anything even approaching the Godlike Bronzed Proofs produced at Soho by Messrs. Boulton and Watt.

Middlesex D&H 854, 854a, and 855 seemingly finish the fantastic “*Before the Revolution*” progression, with ten distinct die states thus far noted in all the known varieties. The remaining five die states of those last two marriages will be covered in my ongoing Journal series regarding Thomas Spence and his tokens. However, I certainly do not have all the answers. As far as I know, D&H 856 is presently unknown. But if that token somehow does exist, might that elusive specimen be the very last striking off the terminally broken “*Before the Revolution*” die? Certainly if that is so, it would be a precious token indeed; and the final piece in our die state progression puzzle!



Middlesex D&H 850—State II+
Same exact crack as #850b, but
slightly heavier in depth.



Middlesex D&H 850—State III
Additional crack below
prisoner's thighs.



Middlesex D&H 850—State IV
Filled in cud over prisoner's head.
Bronzed surface.



Middlesex D&H 850—State V
Same obverse state as last, but
weakened from the stress.
Now with heavily buckled
reverse at lower right, taking
the token out of round.



Introducing a New Edge for Middlesex 953

By R. Stanley – Victoria Australia

Having read the article in the recent Summer edition of C.T.C.J. by R.C. Bell about James Sketchley, it seems timely to inform club members of a new edge for Middlesex 953.

The edge inscription of the piece is: MASONIC TOKEN I. SCETCHLEY FECIT 1794 X .

Dalton & Hamer recognises only 3 edges for this token:

953: PAYABLE IN LANCASTER LONDON OR BRISTOL

953a: PAYABLE AT LONDON OR DUBLIN . X . X .

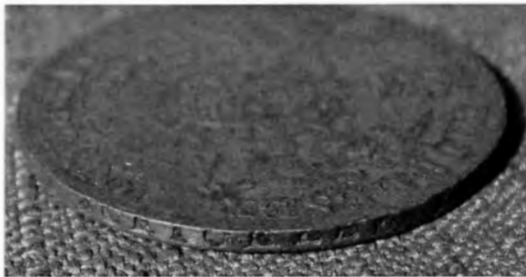
953b: plain



OBVERSE: George Prince of Wales



REVERSE: Royal Arms



In this image the word SCETCHLEY can be read on the edge of the piece. (Tops of letters not visible)



In this image the word MASONIC can be read on the edge of the piece.

This token was one I purchased in an Australian mail auction around 16 years ago, though I didn't realise its importance until I did a bit of research early last year.

The flaws in the token suggest that it was a contemporary striking with the other 953's. There is a flat area developing on the right side of the reverse below the unicorn (described as a 'die buckle' on one website). Likewise, a die crack vertically through the lion is also evident. Neither of these flaws is as advanced as other 953 tokens I've observed.

The use of the 1794 casting die used for the M'sex 369a and 370a Masonic tokens places its production either in this or later years. The obverse of this new M'sex 953 variant is the same die as the M'sex 961 obverse and the M'sex 367 reverse, a token celebrating the Prince of Wales's election to Masonic Grand Master in 1790. This suggests that M'sex 367 was most likely produced as a commemorative piece at the later date of 1794.

One has to wonder whether this token was produced through deliberate action or through mistake. If Lutwyche's workshop where the 953's were being produced was, or had been recently producing the Masonic series, it is easy to see how such an error could have been made. It seems unlikely that a deliberately produced edge variant would have been produced in such small numbers as to have escaped notice until now.

A Slippery Slope.... Down Which We Must Not Travel

By Alan Judd

As many of you well know I am fascinated by forgeries of the late 18th century copper coinage, but it is not commonly known that there are one or two later pieces which might also be considered evasives, and to illustrate this point I show three lovely copper pennies from my collection. The fourth piece you might surmise is the classic 'and this is what the genuine article looks like' photograph. Sadly, you could not be more wrong, and I am grateful to Alan Cope for drawing this piece to my attention, for it is indeed a 21st century 'Chinese' forgery. I put 'Chinese' in inverted commas, though I am fairly confident it emanated from there. The 1854 is a very common penny, worth no more than £5 in this grade, yet the forgery is so perfect it would fool at least 99% of collectors and dealers on first (and in most cases subsequent) inspection. So why am I illustrating it in the Conder Club Bulletin? Well, if they can make an 1854 1d they can make similar copies of any Conder token they get their hands on....

This is a warning to be vigilant and to always look a gift horse in the mouth....



My October 2009 UK Trip: A Study of Contrasting Realities

Jerry Bobbe

Any trip to the UK from Portland, Oregon begins with the required day of total torture courtesy of the various airlines. I was scheduled to fly on Continental. They are my present top choice due to the personal screen and the offering of over 300 movies, playable at any time and including many of full uncensored length. This can help a long trip literally fly by, especially for those of us who have trouble sleeping on an airplane. However, after arriving at PDX two hours early for my 8:40AM flight, I was told there was to be a cancellation due to a dead battery, and that I would need to be transferred to an 11:00 United Airlines flight instead. I went through an hour of waiting in some new lines, made the transfer, gave United my suitcase, and with mega-coffee hot in hand went out to look over every possible store at the airport to kill the extra time. Sure enough, at precisely 8:35, I heard a last boarding call for the Continental flight, which with a miraculous newly installed battery was now to leave right on schedule. It was too late for me however, as I was sadly stuck on United. When I went back to the desk to discuss the issue, the Continental agent informed me that still worse I was not to get mileage credit for the flight, as I was not affiliated with the United program. A half hour and one supervisor later I was told that was incorrect, and of course I would get the mileage. Nonetheless, starting in Chicago on the second leg of my United torture experience, there was a pathetically small choice of heavily censored movies which all ran simultaneously, and for twelve miserable hours the tightest and most painful seat I have ever been forced to endure. Adding to that misery was a buffoon next to me, who somehow simultaneously spilled both an entire glass of orange juice as well as a hot tea all over my slacks and backpack. In my effort to clean off the sticky stains in the lavatory, the neck pillow I have had for over twenty years suddenly took on a mind of its own, leaping from my neck directly into the toilet. Yes token fans, the trip was starting out exactly as I expected!

I arrived at Heathrow about 8:30AM the next day, took the high speed train to Paddington, and checked into my favorite cheap hotel, the St. David's, where lodging always includes their full "English breakfast." It is of a quantity guaranteed to keep anyone from wanting any more to eat until the next morning's onslaught begins the whole process once again. Sometimes in an effort to not pile on the fat and calories, I will restrict myself to a couple of \$6 pints of beer at one of the many colourful London pubs as a substitute for dinner. Being from the brew pub capitol of America, I do heartily believe in beer as an important and necessary food group. Furthermore, hops are indeed a token related subject, and it is my sincere wish that they forever flourish.

Dropping my suitcase, and with jet lag firmly in tow, I was off on the enjoyable two mile walk through Hyde Park, passing directly by the entertaining and often hilarious "Speakers' Corner," then finally arriving at the impressive headquarters of Dix Noonan Webb, where the Robbie Brown lots were on display. The superb DNW staff could not possibly be more accommodating, and the many large lots in the sale were quite nicely grouped. However the viewing room uses lighting sources which make proper grading nearly impossible, much of that caused by the serious shortage of incandescent bulbs from which England presently suffers. Instead, there is unstoppable outside lighting coming through a large shade free window, and lamps with



the sort of "bulbs" that should never be used around coins; both of those oddly clashing with the sparkly reflection of the plastic flips which housed the tokens. There are also some ceiling spotlights which are far the best choice, but the distractions of the other two sources render those almost useless. The bottom line is that one day of viewing became three, it was a strain on the eyes, and some uncharacteristic mistakes were made as a result. Lighting like this is unheard of in any US auction house or grading room, and it is an unnecessary fault for the otherwise fabulous DNW enterprise to put forth. One very smart American dealer brought along his own goose-neck lamp and a number of spare 100 watt bulbs, as well as an adaptor for the British outlets. That was an extremely good move, and I'll be sure to make that same effort myself next time.

And expert viewing was absolutely essential, as large numbers of tokens were graded the usual catchall British "EF." In American terms that would mean exactly 40 or 45 grade on the Sheldon scale, but in England the EF tokens range from brutally hairlined HIPS-infested no-grade disasters to stone cold Gems, with everything possible in between! The mix of people viewing ran that very same gamut, as the conversations about the various lots dramatically illustrated the fascinating contrasting levels of expertise in both grading and token knowledge in general.

The contrasts continued a couple days later at the annual COINEX show. I watched in sheer horror as one of the well known British token dealers continued his relentless practice of the "thumb circle" on every piece he touched. It's easy to do. Just balance the raw token or coin on your index and middle finger and in a circular fashion rub your thumb all over the piece, imparting oily smears, finger marks, and hairlines everywhere. I liken this behavior to that of a dog just having to leave his "mark" on every tree and hydrant he passes. These beautiful tokens somehow survived over two centuries, just to be subjected to this sort of thoughtless abuse in our present day; and all for what! A few of us were especially disappointed to spot one of the American dealers mimicking this very same behavior, possibly in a misguided effort to fit in. It is not that; but it is damaging and wrong! The "thumb circle" is merely a careless and practiced bad habit, which can be easily corrected if one is truly open to personal numismatic evolution.

I bought a number of nice tokens from many of the dealers at the show. One had two Spence tokens of the exact same D&H number. The first was very shiny, though hairlined, rubbed, and artificially reddened at \$250. The other was a perfect surface original red gem with a distracting bit of easily removable crud at \$80. Transposing prices such as in this example vividly illustrate how proper grading does make for a serious monetary difference on both sides of a transaction, even in the lowly field of eighteenth century tokens. Once again, the inaccuracies are all too often caused by people incorrectly grading what is above the metal, as opposed to the metal itself; and all in poor lighting. As my good friend Gary Groll so correctly stated, "It is either original surface; or not." Amen on that excellent point.

Other than the required trips to London for viewings and auctions, I spent most of the next week visiting my long time friends Richard and Fanny Gladdle at their historic century's old home in rural Northamptonshire. I had first met Richard at the 1979 ANA Show in St. Louis, where he bought hundreds of freshly purchased O. P. Eklund tokens from me. We reminisced and hiked, and shared many lovely meals together. We imbibed some local bitters at the nearby village pub and then laughed at their adorable chickens. Of course we played with tokens. The warm Gladdle hospitality is unparalleled, always making for quite a good time. For the last two nights they graciously allowed me to bring along my friend Kyle Knapp, who was in the middle of an intriguing and potentially life-altering multi-purpose trip to the UK. Kyle is easily one of the most brilliant and talented young numismatists I have ever known. Needless to say, Richard, Kyle and I had much to discuss on a variety of token, sloe berry and cow pie related topics, much of it while we

meandered leisurely about the gorgeous Northampton countryside, accompanied throughout by what appeared to be most of the South Midlands' pet dogs.

On Friday, 9th October, the three of us set out by car for the Token Congress in Guildford. For a few hours we ran a daunting gridlock gauntlet around London on a gloomy and rainy rush hour motorway, worrying about Richard's car overheating for much of the drive. Blissfully it didn't, and in spite of a navigating error by yours truly less than a mile from the Holiday Inn,

putting us back on the motorway in the wrong direction, we finally arrived safely and on time. I knew we were in the right place when token dealer Simon Monks handed me a pint just as soon as I entered the hotel lobby. As always, the Congress is an event not to be missed; with incredible camaraderie, entertaining and informative presentations, loads of great food, kegs of beer (complete with redeemable "temperance tokens"), and a very fun and crowded bourse on Saturday night with "hardly enough room to swing a cat." This Congress was superbly organized and presented by Rob de Ruiter, Ron Kerridge, and Derek Aldred, to the total delight of all attendees and accompanying spouses.

Two sharply contrasting Congress moments stood out to me, and I fear I must refrain from naming any names to protect the innocent. The first was during a conversation with a well known British collector, when an author of high reputation came by. The collector asked the author if he had any eighteenth century tokens anymore. The author stated, and this is a direct quote, "I sold them all long ago, and besides (pointing at me), I would never have had any good enough or rare enough for *him*!"

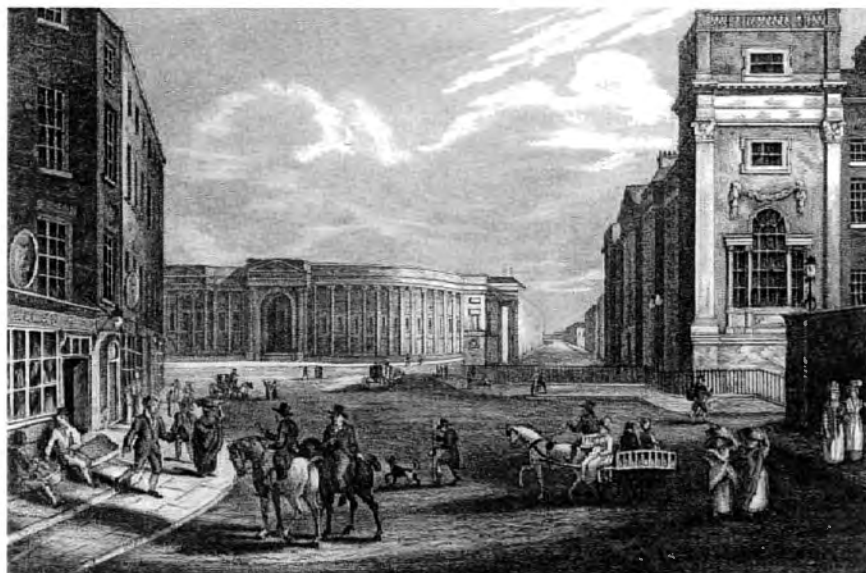
The other pertained to a friend viewing a tray of tokens from one of the dealers at the bourse. This person is the consummate professional in correct handling and grading, and he was about to buy a particularly wonderful token off the tray, a piece we had discussed just moments earlier, and one which I highly recommended. Suddenly another dealer walked up, grabbed that piece right out from under him, and amidst some silly comments performed the "thumb circle" maneuver, and then blithely put it back down. The professional, sufficiently stunned to now reject the token, instead walked over to me muttering something indistinguishable under his breath. Declaring that he was urgently in need of a temperance token redemption, he quickly ran off to the "keg room." This "thumb circle" person was the American imitator mentioned earlier, and in spite of my previous warnings the viewer was wholly unprepared for what transpired before his very eyes. By the way, the piece was immediately sold to another top expert. I never did see it again; so it would be impossible for me to say if it had indeed been damaged, or merely was the professional's fragile psyche.

Other than those two contrasting moments, this Congress and the many colourful attendees were a positive, uplifting, and educational experience, plus it was a place to buy some very nice tokens. All in all the gathering was more fun than a bag of counterfeit one pound coins! But like any great numismatic event, it ended far too soon. One of my all-time favourite characters, the extraordinary and personable Gary Oddie, was kind enough to give me a lift to the St. David's. I flew back to Portland the next day on Continental Airlines, with five fun movies of my choice to help pass the hours; only this time without the complimentary tea and orange juice.



Gladdle household late 19th century - Lyons Tea Shop

**Seven New Varieties of Camac Tokens:
Dublin 35 *Bis II*, Dublin 74 *Bis*, Dublin 116 *Bis II*,
Dublin 131 *Bis*, Dublin 146 *Bis*, Dublin 150 *Bis* & Dublin 234 *Bis*
Gregg A. Silvis**



Dublin street scene in the late 18th century.

**CAMAC KYAN AND CAMAC.
Harp with Six Strings.**

1. Dublin 35 *Bis II*

Obverse: As Dublin 34 and 35. Very early die state with only minimal rust below right side of base.

Reverse: Unlisted. N of KYAN stands vertically in comparison to the other letters of KYAN.

Edge: No. 2.

Reverse Rotation: 15° CW.



Dublin 35 *Bis II*

CAMAC KYAN AND CAMAC.
Harp with Seven Strings; Head nearly under A.

2. Dublin 74 *Bis*

Obverse: Unlisted. Long die break from P of INCORPORATED to the top of 7.

Reverse: As Dublin 74, which is also the same as Dublin 77, but in a later die state.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse Rotation: 20° CCW.

Note: Compare Dublin 74, 75, 77, 85, 86, 87, & 87 *Bis* (CTCJ, Vol. 10, #3, p. 17). All appear to be by the same hand. Hibernia is executed in a similar manner on each, and the obv/rev share the same letter punches.



Dublin 74 *Bis*

CAMAC KYAN AND CAMAC.
Harp with Eight Strings.

3. Dublin 116 *Bis II*

Obverse: As Dublin 116 and 116 *Bis*. Dalton & Hamer incorrectly state that 116 and 116 *Bis* have different obverses.

Reverse: As Dublin 64.

Edge: No. 2

Reverse Rotation: Normal.



Dublin 116 *Bis II*

CAMAC KYAN AND CAMAC.
Harp with Eight Strings; Head under CT.

4. Dublin 131 *Bis*

Obverse: As Dublin 131.

Reverse: Unlisted. TURNER CAMAC CHAIRMAN HALFPENNY. The N's of HALFPENNY are retrograde. The letter punches are same as those used on Dublin 131, and the cypher is executed in a very similar fashion.

Edge: No. 2

Reverse Rotation: Normal.

First identified as a new variety by Gary Groll.



Dublin 131 *Bis*

CAMAC KYAN AND CAMAC.
Harp with Nine Strings.

5. Dublin 146 *Bis*

Obverse: As Dublin 146.

Reverse: As Dublin 148 *Bis I*.

Edge: No. 2.

Reverse Rotation: 25° CW.



Dublin 146 *Bis*

**CAMAC KYAN AND CAMAC.
Harp with Nine Strings.**

6. Dublin 150 *Bis*

Obverse: As Dublin 150. Later die state with swelling in field between TED and Hibernia.

Reverse: As Dublin 151. Later die state with rust scattered through the fields and devices.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse Rotation: 30° CW.



Dublin 150 *Bis*

**CAMAC KYAN AND CAMAC.
Varieties.**

7. Dublin 234 *Bis*

Obverse: Unlisted. Harp with six strings. HI[BERNI]CUS 179[0?]

Reverse: Unlisted. CAMAC ____NN AND CAMAC H[ALFPENNY].

Edge: Plain.

Weight: 6.74 grams.

Reverse Rotation: 35° CW.



Dublin 234 *Bis*

‘PETER’ SKIDMORE: THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS

Part 1

D.W. Dykes



Fig. 1. Skidmore's 'commercial halfpenny' or shop ticket (*D&H*: Middx. no. 480).

[T]here were two persons of this surname [Skidmore], John and Peter, father and son, who carried on business as ironmongers and stove grate manufacturers, in London. The father was originally in business alone, but the firm subsequently became Skidmore and Son. They dealt in coins, and in this way might be considered commercially as forming the *Company* interested in that venture and referred to by the cipher [PSC^o]. Peter appears to have generally superintended the production of the pieces, and his name, as well as that of his father, who issued the token No. 192 [*D&H*: Middx. no. 480] (Fig.1) ... and many other pieces, is notorious in connection with those made for sale in the metropolis, at the time when collectors were eager to secure specimens of all kinds. It is only justice to Skidmore to say that some of his buildings pieces, such as those of the London churches, should, perhaps, be placed to his credit, against the heavy debit which most writers, not undeservedly, place to his account, in connection with the manufacture of the specious tokens of the eighteenth century.

Acknowledgement: My particular thanks are due to Graham Dyer and Kevin Clancy for their kindness in enabling me to examine Miss Banks's copies of the catalogues of 'Christopher Williams' and John Hammond in the Royal Mint Library. I am also grateful to Michael Dickinson, Harrington E. Manville and Robert Thompson for their comments on an earlier version of this paper. I am also grateful to Michael Dickinson, Harrington E. Manville and Robert Thompson for their comments on an earlier version of this paper.

R. T. Samuel's confident description of the Skidmores, the Clerkenwell iron founders, furnishing ironmongers and token manufacturers, appeared in *The Bazaar, The Exchange and Mart* for 19 March 1884 (p. 300) and, by repetition, has so stamped 'Peter' Skidmore's persona on posterity that his name has become embedded in the historical dogma of the eighteenth-century token.¹ Yet, while John Skidmore (d.1823) is a reasonably well-attested historical figure, 'Peter' Skidmore, is known only from secondary numismatic sources and, try as one might to authenticate his existence, it seems to be as flimsy as gossamer. As Samuel himself recognised, no token inscribed 'Skidmore' carried any distinguishing forename, the designation appearing simply as **SKIDMORE** or **P. SKIDMORE** or reduced to the monograms **PS** or **PSC^o**. So what justification is there for

¹ Dalton and Hamer 1910-18 [*D&H*], Introduction to the 3rd Middlesex section; Waters 1954, vi; Bell 1963, 121; Bell 1968, 81; and Bell 1978, *passim*, enshrined the name 'Peter' in token literature. It does not appear in Waters 1906.

Samuel's assurance that the 'P' of 'P. Skidmore' represented the Christian name 'Peter' and for his assertion that 'Peter Skidmore was John Skidmore's son?

Contemporary commentators, without exception, referred to the token maker purely as 'Skidmore'² and the earliest that the Christian name 'Peter' seems to have entered the numismatic frame is in Anthony Durand's book published in Geneva some seventy years after the tokens his work describes.³ Durand does not speculate on 'Peter' Skidmore's relationship to John Skidmore – indeed he does not mention the latter – and appears to confuse the two since he refers to 'Peter' Skidmore as primarily an ironmonger or hardware dealer ('marchand quincaillier'). Nevertheless, he was presumably the source that Samuel drew upon and then elaborated by reference to contemporary London trade directories.

John Skidmore himself is certainly an individual not unknown to the historical record. Although his origins are obscure they apparently lay in the Black Country around Dudley, straddling the border between south Staffordshire and north Worcestershire, where, today, Skidmore is still a not uncommon name.⁴ It is, though, incredibly difficult to decipher the intricacies of the family relationships of what even in the eighteenth century was a comparatively large clan centred in the adjacent parishes of Old Swinford (Worcestershire) and Kingswinford (Staffordshire). In the present state of our knowledge, Skidmore's parentage and birth date are irresolvable. When he was buried in Camberwell in March 1823 his age was recorded as 64 years, but this was patently impossible since it would have meant that he would have been only twelve years' old when we know he married in 1771. It is reasonable to assume, contrariwise, that he was born sometime during the 1730s or 1740s but since several 'John Skidmores' were born in the area in these decades no dependable identification is possible.⁵ We can, however, be much more positive about his marriage. This was to a Nancy Jones on 25

² For instance, the attorney and collector, Charles Shephard, who in one of his illuminating 'Essays on the Provincial Half-Pennies' (Shephard 1798, 121-22) castigated Skidmore, only by surname, for being 'one of the most reprehensible dealers' in his systematic production of mules although he admitted that he had 'some claim to our pardon, on account of his beautiful series of the London churches'. Nor was Skidmore referred to other than by his surname in any of the contemporary catalogues.

³ Durand 1865, 185: 'SKIDMORE, Peter. Il était marchand quincaillier et faisait aussi le commerce des médailles à Londres à la fin du dernier siècle. Ces tokens ont été frappés dans un but de spéculation et en même temps pour faire connaître son double commerce. Il y en a plus de cent variétés qui représentent à l'Obv. différents bâtiments publics et des églises, et au R/. ses initiales avec son adresse ou une dédication avec quelques variantes. Il serait trop fastidieux de les décrire tous, je me contenterai donc d'en reproduire un de chaque grandeur comme specimen'. I am grateful to Robert Thompson for alerting me to this reference.

⁴ The Dudley and Bridgnorth *BT Phone Book* (522) for 2005/2006, covering the immediate area of interest, contains seventy-eight residential entries for individuals named Skidmore.

⁵ St. Giles, Camberwell Burial Register, 6 March 1823 (Southwark Local Studies Library). If the unit figure recorded at his burial is correct, and there is no reason to believe that it is, he *might* be the John Skidmore baptized at Old Swinford on 2 September 1748 (Old Swinford Baptismal Register, Worcestershire Record Office). Otherwise, he could be one of a number of candidates. The complexities of the Black Country Skidmore family relationships are deftly brought out by Moffatt 2004 in her encyclopaedic genealogical survey.

March 1771 in Kingswinford, a marriage that was to be commemorated twenty-six years later in the fictitious armorial bearings of Scudamore impaling Jones adopted as the reverse type (Fig. 2) of the 'Clerkenwell' series of 'penny' medalets (*D&H*: Middx. nos 147-165) and some Skidmore 'halfpennies' (*D&H*: Middx. nos 517-519 and 566).⁶



Fig. 2. The reverse of a 'Clerkenwell' penny (*D&H* Middx. no.161) depicting Skidmore's fictitious arms, the three stirrups of Scudamore of Kentchurch, Hereford impaling the lion rampant attributed to Bleddyn ap Cynfyn, an eleventh-century prince of North Wales and Powys, from whom a number of old landed families of Jones claim descent.

Most of the Skidmores of the time seem to have been employed in the Black Country's rapidly developing iron industry or in the coal mining that was coming to underpin it, and John Skidmore's family was doubtless no different from others of that name. But he had ambitions and by 1772 had migrated the few miles to Dudley, a town long known for its 'great manufacture for nails and other iron wares'. Nevertheless, he sought a wider stage than the west midlands could provide and within four years had moved on to the metropolis and to Clerkenwell, an area already noted for its congeries of skilled craftsmen, watch and clock makers, metal workers, jewellers, japanners and printers, and where he may already have had relations active in the metal trade.⁷ Regrettably we know nothing of his time in London until, by the early part of the following decade, he had gathered together sufficient capital to set himself up as an iron founder in Coppice Row, Cold Bath Fields. And, with an eye to the rapid changes taking place in the technology of domestic living and the boom in speculative London house building, he was quickly specialising in the manufacture of domestic stoves, fire-grates and household equipment.

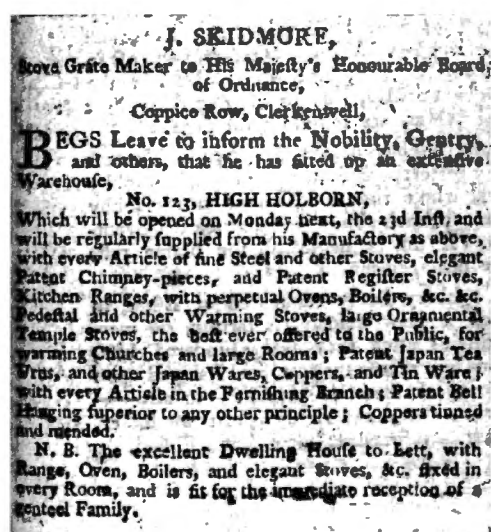
The broad thrust of Skidmore's business career in London is sketched in the trade directories of the time. While such directories obviously have their limitations and have to be treated with some caution,⁸ they at least give us

⁶ Kingswinford Marriage Register (Staffordshire Record Office, PSH 6).

⁷ St James, Clerkenwell Baptismal Register (London Metropolitan Archives). The evidence that Skidmore may already have had relations in Clerkenwell is inconclusive.

⁸ The reliability of any directory as an up-to-date source of information is inevitably conditioned by the readiness of potential entrants to provide information, by the time lag between the collection and publication of data (often some months) and, not infrequently, by the unverified repetition of an entry from an earlier edition or its lifting from a rival publication. The listing of Charles Parker from whose executors John Skidmore acquired 123 High Holborn in the autumn of 1789, is, for example, continued from the 1790 to the 1791 edition of the *Universal British Directory* although he had died in June 1789 and Skidmore is also shown at that address. For a discussion of the problems of trade directories as a source see Norton 1950, 16-24.

a framework for an outline history of his firm. We do not know exactly when John Skidmore set up his own business in Clerkenwell but that he had done so by the early part of 1784, and probably somewhat before this, is demonstrated by his listing in Bailey's *British Directory* for that year.⁹ This was at 15 Coppice Row – on its western side and on a site somewhere near the *Guardian* building in Farringdon Road today.¹⁰ The foundry in Coppice Row was still listed as Skidmore's only trading address in the 1789 edition of Lowndes's *London Directory*, but by the November of that year he had acquired shop premises or, as he described them on his token, a 'repository' or showroom, in which to display his products and promote 'off the floor' sales, at 123 High Holborn.¹¹ One can be quite precise about the date Skidmore's new 'extensive warehouse' ¹² opened (23 November) for it was puffed in *The Times* (Fig. 3). Skidmore took care, at the same time, to publicize his appointment as 'Stove Grate Maker to His Majesty's Honourable Board of Ordnance', a contract that provided Skidmore not only with an income from the supply of domestic ironmongery to the military but with a stamp of official approval that afforded him a useful sales cachet.¹³



⁹ Bailey's surveys were normally undertaken after Christmas with publication in the following March (Norton 1950, 22). Skidmore's absence from earlier directories may not necessarily mean that he had not embarked on his own business prior to 1784 but bearing in mind his predilection for self-advertisement it is unlikely that this happened much before this date.

¹⁰ The Skidmore's iron-founding side of their business was to remain at Coppice Row until 1811/1812. A reference to the firm being at *Corporation* Row, Clerkenwell in the *Post Office New Annual Directory* for 1800 must be a misprint. Coppice Row disappeared with the development of Farringdon Road in 1845-46.

¹¹ The new premises, on the northern side of High Holborn and slightly to the west of today's junction with Southampton Row or what was then King Street, were acquired from the executors of Charles Parker, an upholster or house furnisher and warehouseman. See also Lease dated 2 December 1789 (London Metropolitan Archives, MDR/1799/2/730). Roy Hawkins erred in stating that Skidmore was originally in business at 35 High Holborn and moved to 123 High Holborn and 15 Coppice Row in 1791 (Hawkins 1989, 98).

¹² 'Warehouse' like 'repository' was then a fashionably genteel euphemism for a shop, especially one catering for both the retail and wholesale trade. A correspondent to the *London Chronicle* commented in 1765 on the affectation: 'Have we now any shops? Are they not all turned into Warehouses?'

¹³ *The Times*, 19 November 1789, 1.

Fig. 3. Advertisement in *The Times*, 19 November 1789.
(© British Library Board. All rights Reserved.)

Although, according to the advertisement, the domestic quarters at 123, High Holborn - suitable 'for the immediate reception of a genteel family' - were to be offered for rent, the whole property had become the Skidmore home by the spring of 1793 and, 'living above the shop', Skidmores were to remain there for almost thirty years.¹⁴ That April the shop was the scene of the theft of a dozen ivory-handled case knives and forks by an employee, George Beardmore. At the ensuing Old Bailey proceedings Skidmore testified he was then the sole principal of the firm but waiting for his son to complete his apprenticeship. As *The Times* of 25 March makes clear, however, when advertising Skidmore's book of patterns, *The Stove Grate-maker's Directory: or, Nobleman and Gentleman's compleat Choice for Stove Grates, &c.* ('price 10s. 6d. half bound'), he was already describing the business as 'John Skidmore and Son', a style to be maintained for the next fifteen or more years (Fig. 4).¹⁵

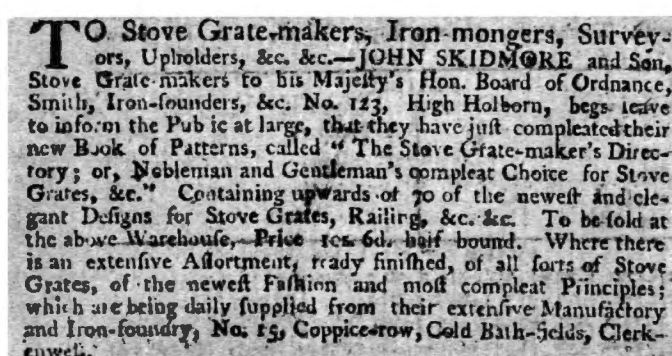


Fig. 4. Advertisement in *The Times*, 25 March 1793.
(British Library Board. All Rights Reserved.)

In 1795 Skidmore issued the firm's only token to be recognised as a genuine commercial halfpenny by Charles Pye in the 1801 quarto edition of his *Provincial Coins and Tokens*.¹⁶ As someone who was by no means averse to publicizing his business, Skidmore's token, though apparently produced in some quantity (Pye vaguely rates it as common ('c')), was probably intended to be more of a shop ticket than a commercial halfpenny, there being no mark of promissory exchange value. The obverse, appropriately, depicts a fire-grate of the type that contemporaries labelled 'register' stove¹⁷ with 'N^o. 123 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON' within a circle and the

¹⁴ When later valued for insurance purposes the property was described as a dwelling house with adjoining 'ware rooms' and offices and insured for £2,500 (Records of the Sun Life Fire Office, 1818-1821, Guildhall Library, London, Mss 11936/472 and 480).

¹⁵ *Whole Proceedings*, 576-77. The stolen goods were worth £1.16s. and Beardmore (originally a clerk in the firm and latterly a bell-hanger), being found guilty, was sentenced to imprisonment for six months in the House of Correction and fined 1s.

¹⁶ Pye 1801, 14 and plate XXXIV, 6.

¹⁷ A 'register stove' was a domestic fire-grate with a 'register' or damper, a metal plate in the chimney flue used to regulate the draught and combustion of the fire. Representations of a 'register stove' also appear on the halfpennies issued by Clark

legend 'PAYABLE AT SKIDMORE'S FURNISHING REPOSITORY ☼'. The reverse (which quickly developed a flaw between two and four o' clock) portrays a traditional forge scene within a circle and around it the legend 'MANUFACTORY & IRON-FOUNDRY. CLERKENWELL' with the date '1795' in the exergue (*D&H*: Middx. no. 480).¹⁸ The edge is usually diagonally milled although there are rare specimens with a plain edge while examples of the normal issue are also known in brass, with proofs in silver.

According to Pye the token was engraved by 'Wyon' and manufactured by Skidmore. It had earlier appeared as one of the elegant engravings included in plate 35 of Pye's original *Provincial Copper Coins or Tokens* published on 1 August 1795 (Fig. 5) but well before this it had been listed in John Hammond's *Descriptive List of the Provincial Copper Coins*. Edited by the pseudonymous 'Christopher Williams', this, the first of the contemporary token catalogues, had certainly been published by 7 May 1795 if not earlier.¹⁹ The 'halfpenny' must therefore have been produced in the early months of that year or perhaps even late in 1794.²⁰

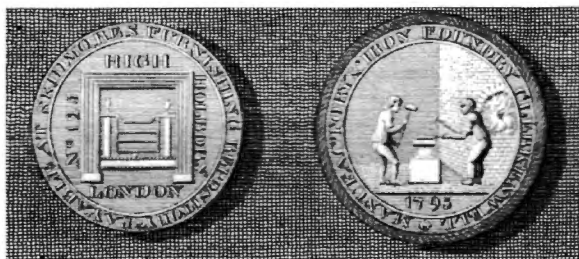


Fig. 5 Skidmore's 'commercial halfpenny' or shop ticket (*D&H*: Middx. no.480).
(From Pye 1795, plate 35 (no. 3), published on 1 August 1795).

Although Pye was quite clear on the point, and it is evident from their later muling that at some juncture the dies had come into Skidmore's possession, doubts have been expressed as to whether the token was actually struck by him. R. C. Bell, for one, suggested that it was minted in Birmingham, 'typical of the Birmingham style' and

and Harris (*D&H*: Middx. nos 283-84) and William Parker (*D&H*: Dublin nos 351-53), respectively London and Dublin furnishing ironmongers, while earlier 'Bath Stoves' (a type of hob grate) appear on the tokens of Schooling and Son (*D&H*: Middx. no. 474) and Michael Apsey of Bury St. Edmunds (*D&H*: Suffolk no. 28), also furnishing ironmongers.

¹⁸ The earliest catalogues prior to Pye (1795) (but including Birchall 1796)) specify the forge scene as the obverse.

¹⁹ Williams 1795, 15, no. 147. Shephard's statement that Hammond's catalogue was published 'in the latter part of the year 1794' (Shephard 1798, 213) does not accord with the title-page date imprint. The fact that Miss Sarah Sophia Banks acquired two copies on 7 May 1795 (so dated in manuscript on their title-pages) suggests publication in the spring of 1795. Miss Banks noted in her library catalogue now in the Royal Mint Library that 'Christopher Williams' was 'a fictitious name'. Shephard had heard that Samuel Birchall had had a hand in the compilation of the catalogue but admitted that he had no 'accurate information' of this.

²⁰ The date on the token should not necessarily be taken as its actual year of manufacture. The Swansea halfpenny of John Voss (*D&H*: Glam. No. 4), for instance, credited by Pye to Wyon and Kempson, although dated '1796' was likely to have been produced the previous year. Miss Banks, unless she nodded when subsequently (post 1801) entering up her catalogue, recorded the acquisition of her specimen as 14 October 1795 ([Banks], Ms Catalogue, 124 no. 17 (SSB 195-17)).

‘unlike any of his [Skidmore’s] other coins, or indeed any London coin’.²¹ But it is the quality of the execution of its *dies* that makes the piece stand apart from Skidmore’s other productions. This certainly bears out Pye’s attribution of their engraving to the Wyons’ Birmingham atelier, yet, while their workshop was largely undertaking token work for Kempson and Lutwyche at the time, there is no real reason to question Skidmore’s being the *manufacturer* of his own halfpenny. In the nature of his business he would have had stamping presses to hand for the production of small domestic wares and brass work that could easily have been adapted for the striking of coin. Visual examination of the halfpenny, moreover, suggests that its metal fabric is little different from many of Skidmore’s other pieces, especially those one might judge as being roughly contemporary in manufacture. Unfortunately, one knows next to nothing about Skidmore’s sources of copper but it was not until later, in 1796 and especially in 1797, that with the escalation in the price of the metal he had to depend on inferior copper and also on recycled Birmingham blanks and tokens bought in from other manufacturers such as Kempson. It must be remembered, too, that the token was very much a personal advertising tool which would explain why its initial standard is generally superior to so much of Skidmore’s later slipshod production.

One can be fairly positive that the Skidmore coinery was actually operating at the time of the production of the ‘commercial halfpenny’ or at least very soon afterwards. Indeed, if one accepted the dates inscribed on a number of specious tokens attributable to Skidmore at their face value – Horsham (*D&H*: Sussex no. 27), Kidderminster (*D&H*: Worcs. no. 23) and Salisbury (*D&H*: Wilts. no. 12) dated 1791 or Bedale (*D&H*: Yorks. no. 9) and Birmingham (‘General Elliot’) (*D&H*: War. no. 224) dated 1792, for instance - one could put the coinery back by some three or four years. The truth is, however, that all these tokens were probably struck not earlier than the winter of 1794-95 and the Horsham and ‘General Elliot’ pieces are demonstrably later.

Unhappily, in trying to date Skidmore’s earliest tokens more precisely one is handicapped by the absence of any published catalogue prior to the spring of 1795. We do know that in March of that year, however, Miss Banks bought a specimen of Salter’s shop ticket (*D&H*: Middx. no. 473), a token that Pye (1801) credited to the Skidmore coinery.²² If Pye was correct a clear *terminus ante quem* is thus set for the beginnings of Skidmore’s minting activity and at least the available catalogues show that by May it was well established. Hammond’s ‘Christopher Williams’ list (Williams 1795) was quickly followed, ‘eclipsed’ is Charles Shephard’s word, by Thomas Spence’s *Coin Collector’s Companion*, a copy of which Miss Banks acquired on 16 May.²³ Though to Shephard these two lists were composed ‘upon a very confined scale’, between them they constitute a not

²¹ Bell 1963, 121. Pye’s vagueness over the quantity of pieces manufactured is also a telling point against a Birmingham provenance.

²² [Banks] Ms Catalogue, 95 no. 75 (SSB 192-75). On 17 March 1795 she also acquired a Spence ‘Pitt & Fox’ halfpenny (*D&H*: Middx. no. 804), a token that can plausibly be attributed to Skidmore’s coinery ([Banks], Ms ‘List of coins ...’).

²³ Spence’s catalogue (including the ‘Addenda’) listed 361 tokens arranged alphabetically compared to Hammond’s 341 ‘arranged promiscuously’ (Spence 1795a).

unreasonable guide to Skidmore's production up to that time. As the following Table indicates, Hammond's catalogue (**W**) described at least sixteen tokens that can be plausibly attributed to Skidmore's manufactory in addition to his 'commercial halfpenny' while Spence's list (**S**) added a further seven – five in the list proper and two in the 'Addenda' (**A**).²⁴ In compiling the Table below account has been taken of the attributions of Pye (1795, 1801, and 1916 [Waters]), Sharp (1834), engravings in Denton and Prattent (1795-97) and the goulash of mules that Skidmore concocted from dies originally engraved for Spence and other 'proprietors' as well as for his own specious pieces and perhaps one of the engraver Thomas Prattent. In Hamer's words they 'are known by the company they keep' and it has been assumed from Skidmore's muling that neither Spence, his engraver Charles James, nor Prattent were likely to have had any manufacturing capacity of their own and relied on Skidmore's manufactory for the pieces listed.²⁵ James's halfpenny for Sims (*D&H*: Middx. no. 478), which was listed in the catalogues, has, however, been excluded from the table because its dies are known only in this one combination as have certain other pieces – 'End of Pain' for example - since they cannot be positively identified from the descriptions given. Questionable attributions that have been admitted are shown in italics and commercial halfpennies or shop tickets in bold.

TABLE 1. Tokens attributed to Skidmore's manufactory

Halfpenny (unless specified)	<i>D&H</i> No.	W	S	A	Die-Sinker	Earliest References to Die-Sinkers
<i>Bedale</i> (' <i>Bedal</i> ' [<i>sic</i>])	Yorks. 9	●	○		James	Sharp 1834, 101 no.1
<i>Dudley</i>	Worcs. 7	●	○		James	Sharp 1834, 100 no.1
Dunmow	Essex 11	●	○		Skidmore	Sharp 1834, 43 no. 5
France ('King & Queen')	Middx. 995	●	○		<i>Jacobs</i>	
Guildford	Surrey 9	●	○		Denton/ Prattent	Pye 1801, pl. 21, 10
Hendon (Price)	Middx. 324	●	○		----	Pye 1795, pl. 36, 1
London (Filtering Stone Warehouse - Henderson)^a	Middx. 292/3	●	○		Jacobs	Pye 1801, pl. 29, 4
London (Salter)	Middx. 473	●	○		Jacobs	Pye 1801, pl. 34, 1
London (Skidmore)	Middx. 480	●	○		Wyon	Pye 1795, pl. 35, 3
Salisbury	Wilts. 12	●	○		Skidmore	Sharp 1834, 100 no.8
Spence ('Pitt & Fox'/'Hand')	Middx. 804	●	○		James	
Spence ('Pig'/'Advocates')	Middx. 842	●			James	
Spence ('Pig'/'Advocates')	Middx. 1117	●			James	Sharp 1834, 182 no.7
Farthing						
Spence ('Pig'/'Adam & Eve')	Middx. 1083	●			James	Sharp 1834, 182 no.7
Farthing						
<i>Spence ('Pig'/'Bull-Ass')</i>	Middx. ----	●			James	
<i>Farthing^b</i>						

²⁴ Hammond (**W**) and Spence (**S**) also 'announced' but did not describe a number of putative Skidmore productions of which they had had notice but which had not yet been manufactured or consigned to them.

²⁵ Cf. Thompson 1969, 162. Prattent seems to have relied on Williams as the manufacturer of most of his tokens.

Spence ('Slave'/'Head') Farthing	Middx. 1082	●	James	
Spence ('Slave'/'Advocates') Farthing	Middx. 1118	● ○	[James]	Sharp 1834, 186 no. 46
London (Blackfriars – Spittle)^c	Middx 257	●	Jacobs	Pye 1801, pl. 28, 2
Spence ('Cat'/'Hand & Book') Farthing	Middx 1091	●	James	Sharp 1834, 182 no.8
Spence ('Bull-Ass'/'Advocates') Farthing	Middx 1078	●	James	Sharp 1834, 182 no.2
Spence ('Bull-Ass'/'Adam & Eve') Farthing	Middx 1085	●	[James]	Sharp 1834, 184 no.12
Spence ('Slave'/'Adam & Eve') Farthing	Middx 1089	●	[James]	Sharp 1834, 186 no.47
Spence ('Head'/'Hand')	Middx 682	●	James	Sharp 1834, 144 no.6
'Brighton' (Deverell) ^d	Sussex 6	●	James	Sharp 1834, 90 no.5

W = Williams 1795.

S = Spence 1795a.

A = 'Appendix' printed with S.

● = First Listing.

○ = Repetition.

^a = Issued by J. Henderson (Waters 1906, 17).

^b = This farthing is unknown and is probably confused by Hammond with *D&H*: Middx. No.1078. It does not appear in S or A.

^c = Issued by James Spittle, Cheesemonger, Broadway, Blackfriars, London (co-issuer of *D&H*: Middx. 902-3) ([Banks], Ms Catalogue, 98 no. 99 (SSB 192-99)).

^d = Issued by Benjamin Deverell, Orange Merchant, Fleet Market, London ([Banks], Ms Catalogue, 30 no. 167 (SSB 186-167)).

Of the putative Skidmore productions put out by May 1795 only six – Guildford; Hendon (Price); London (Filtering Stone Warehouse - Henderson); London (Salter); London (Skidmore); and London (Blackfriars - Spittle) - have reasonable claim to being commercial halfpennies or shop tickets. And, while there may be some doubt about the Guildford piece, all are listed in Pye (1801). The rest are specious tokens made for sale, for general circulation or, in the case of those put out by Spence, mainly to disseminate the latter's radical beliefs. As Pye (1795) noted in his 'Advertisement' the Brighton and Dudley halfpennies were not known to be in existence in those towns. Both were intended for sale to collectors, the former, according to Miss Banks, put out by Benjamin Deverell, an orange merchant in Fleet Market, and the latter by the engraver Charles James.²⁶ It is probable that the Bedale token – not included in Pye (1801) - falls into the same category although the name of the supposed issuer was a not uncommon one in Wensleydale.

²⁶ Pye 1795, 'Advertisement', implied that the fabrication of specious tokens was a fairly recent phenomenon whereas the intermixing of dies was not; ([Banks] Ms Catalogue, 30 no. 167 (SSB 186-187)).

The lists make it clear that Skidmore was well entrenched in the manufacture of tokens by May 1795. They also suggest that, while he had embarked on the striking of specious pieces, he had not yet adopted his 'reprehensible' practice of intermixing his own dies. Spence, on the other hand, had already taken his first tentative steps towards what was to become an increasing preoccupation by the summer of 1795 when he put out a *Supplement* to his catalogue.²⁷ Even then it seems that Skidmore had not yet imitated Spence, although he was presumably striking the latter's mules. None of his own was published in the *Supplement* or in Hammond's retaliatory *Virtuoso's Guide* (1795) that followed hot on its heels, although it has to be stressed that Hammond made a point of excluding most mules or 'bastards', as he called them, from his list.²⁸ If Denton and Prattent's *Virtuoso's Companion* (1795-97) is any gauge, Skidmore does not seem to have started to mimic Spence's technique, until much before the latter part of 1795. On 14 December, however, a whole plate was devoted to the 'Brighton' halfpenny and its mules (including the Spence 'Heart in Hand' reverse (*D&H*: Sussex nos 6-9)). And by early 1796, judging from Birchall (1796), Skidmore was interchanging dies extensively and was now also using two other Spence dies ('Slop-Seller' and 'Odd Fellows' [George III and Ass]) as well as the 'Heart in Hand' type (*D&H*: Northd. no.17; Middx. no. 332; and Middx. no. 498). Clearly these dies were already in his hands, presumably as Spence's manufacturer, although he is not supposed to have acquired formal ownership of the bulk of the latter's dies until the turn of the year.²⁹ But, while he might embrace and expand Spence's methods, none of Skidmore's mules exhibited the purpose or wry wit of the radical's bizarre extravaganza; they were simply a 'jobbing' enterprise to gull collectors through the creation of freak – and costly – varieties.

For all the activity of his mint Skidmore's manufacture of tokens remained a subsidiary undertaking.³⁰ While the 'Register Stove' obverse of his 'commercial' halfpenny gives some clue to the main thrust of Skidmore's primary business its naturally constricted compass does less than justice to the wide variety of products and services he marketed in his 1789 advertisement. Some of these products were displayed even more vividly in an engraved trade card that he put out at the turn of the century (Fig. 6).

²⁷ This six-page addendum (Spence 1795b) to a slightly revised version of Spence's original catalogue was mainly a vehicle for puffing his own political mules. The *Supplement* was sold both as a separate publication and bound in with the revised issue of his main catalogue. Miss Banks's copy of the *Supplement* (Royal Mint Library) is inscribed by her 'August 14. 1795'. But, as Thompson notes, the *Supplement* contains at least one die dated 1796 (Thompson 1969, 128 [rev. H]).

²⁸ The new lists between them included six additional Skidmore productions – Birmingham, 'General Elliot/PS' (*D&H*: War. no. 224); Birmingham 'William Allan' (*sic*) [recte 'Hallan'] (1795) (*D&H*: War. no. 131); Edinburgh, Campbell (*D&H*: Lothian no. 13); Hendon ('Garrick') (*D&H*: Middx. no. 325); Kidderminster (*D&H*: Worcs. no. 23); and London, Schooling (*D&H*: Middx. no. 474). Pye 1801 accepts the Hallan, Campbell and Schooling halfpennies as genuine commercial tokens, but there must be considerable doubt about the first.

²⁹ Denton and Prattent 1795-97, pl. 45; Birchall 1796, 12 (50), 73 (172), 122 (37) and 128 (200). Birchall's catalogue is dated by its prefatorial subscription, 'January 30 1796'. On the transfer of Spence's dies to Skidmore see Thompson 1969, 128, quoting 'R. Y.' 1797 and Shephard 1798.

³⁰ Skidmore also dealt in tokens, Shephard listing him as one of London's principal dealers alongside Young, Hancock, Hammond, Spence and Denton, company that Young, one suspects, would have rather done without.



Fig. 6. Skidmore and Son's Trade Card, issued sometime between 1799 and 1801 ³¹
(Paper, 8.8 cm x 13 cm). (John Johnson Collection, Bodleian Library, Oxford).

Embellished with the Royal Arms and stressing again Skidmore's appointment to the Board of Ordnance, the paper card was designed to persuade middling- and upper-class customers anxious to avail themselves of the most modern domestic durables, that the firm was one of reliability and of a status worthy of the patronage of the 'Nobility, Gentry, and others' of his advertisement. No doubt Skidmore hoped that the 'others' would have been seduced by the impression that they would be buying goods sought after by their betters.

A whole emporium of tempting merchandise was illustrated: an 'improved' register stove 'on Count Rumford's plan'; a hall lantern; a box of 'warranted' cutlery (no doubt of the type that Beardmore stole); a patent bell-hanging system; a range 'with or without ovens and boilers &c'; ³² a smoke jack ('greatly improved') for powering a spit; and, for the carriage trade, an 'everlasting metallic nave' or wheel hub for which Skidmore had obtained a patent in September 1799, though whether it would have endured 'to the end of time' as he claimed, bearing in mind the brittleness of the cast iron of its components, must be doubted. ³³ Most of these articles would have been produced in the Clerkenwell foundry but some, the 'warranted' cutlery, for instance, would have been drawn down from a specialist cutler in Sheffield and other stock from Black Country and Birmingham connections.

The 'Rumford Stove', an improvement on the 'register stove' type of domestic fire-grate, had by now become Skidmore's key product. A recent invention of Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, the new form of grate with its narrow throat, smokeshef and inclined sides helped considerably to reduce downdraughts and to

³¹ The engraving of the 'Patent Everlasting Nave' and the inclusion of the fleurs-de-lis of France in the second quarter of the Royal Arms would date the card to these years.

³² The engraving shows a range with two trivets and compartments for an oven (left) and a boiler (right) that could be installed to order.

³³ *Patent Specification 2337*, granted jointly to John Skidmore and George Dodson, cabinetmaker of Blackfriars Road, 7 September 1799; the invented nave was promoted as something that 'must endure for many generations, nay, it may be supposed, to the end of time'.

increase the radiant heat of the fire.³⁴ It was widely promoted by Rumford, much taken up by London society, including Sir Joseph Banks at 32 Soho Square, and became something of a fad and even a target of the caricaturists (Fig. 7). The invention was not patented, however, and was extensively copied, forcing Rumford to issue a disclaimer that he was ‘not the inventor of those stoves that have been offered to the public for sale under my name’.³⁵ The guarded nature of Skidmore’s description suggests that his ‘Rumford Stoves’ were just such a plagiarised version and is perhaps an indicator of the sharp practice evident in the firm’s token business.

Utilitarian and cheaply made as the run of Skidmore’s output was he was nevertheless always alive to the demands of the affluent end of his market and did not neglect the production of highly ornamented articles to satisfy the latest decorative fashion. An innovative character, as we have seen, he had already, in 1786, been granted a patent for a process of embellishing a considerable range of merchandise, including his stove grates, stove fronts, fenders, shovels, tongs and pokers, with ‘foil stones, Bristol stones, paste, and all sorts of pinched glass, lapped glass, and every other stone, glass, and composition used in or applicable to the jewellery trade’, translating the functional into showy luxuries for clients in easy circumstances.³⁶



Fig. 7. ‘The Comforts of a Rumford Stove’ by James Gillray, 1800.¹ (National Portrait Gallery, London).

Part 2 will be featured in Journal 55.

³⁴ Southey 1807, Vol. I, Letter XIV, 158 accounted Rumford a ‘philosopher, the first person who has applied scientific discoveries to the ordinary purposes of life’.

³⁵ Ellis 1870-73, Vol. II, 566.

³⁶ *Patent Specification 1552*, granted 4 September 1786, for a ‘new method of ornamenting all manner of stove grates, stove fronts, fenders, shovels, tongs, pokers, chimney pieces, chimney panels, the inside of houses and ships, all sorts of Japan wares, all kinds of cabinets and furniture, the outside of coaches and other carriages, and all sorts of china and earthenwares, with foil stones, Bristol stones, paste, and all sorts of pinched glass, lapped glass, and every other stone, glass, and composition used in or applicable to the jewellery trade’. Patents, in themselves, were a form of advertisement, ‘a sign of modernity and technical ingenuity ... displaying the patent holder’s place in enlightened society as a creator of novelties, as making advances based on scientific principles, as part of the world of the arts’ (Berg 2005, 179).

Letters to the Editor

Welcome to the Journal's new Letters to the Editor section. This is the place for comments, questions, criticisms, queries, or soapboxes. We will never change anything you write other than punctuation or grammar, though we reserve the right to edit out or refuse publication of false or otherwise unprintable content. Here is a place for those budding authors who have not yet written an article to get your feet wet and come play with us. I would point to the incredibly informative observations from Dr. Harry Salyards as the sort of stellar example we seek. Have fun, break out those dictionaries and thesauruses, and please just let us have it!

Peace and Plenty,
Jerry

Dear Jerry,

Congratulations on assuming the editorship! I thought that Issue #53 was excellent throughout, but particularly wanted to comment on your editorial, "Is Now the Time for a Conder Pricing Guide?"

Since you put your title in the form of a question, I'll begin by answering it: No.

The core problem, as I see it--and this applies across the entire range of modern coin and medal collecting, not just Conders, or even just copper--is that there are too many people "out there" who don't want to learn how to grade. They don't want to ever go through the kind of moment you describe our late friend Wayne Anderson as having had, when you showed him the difference between the real gems in his collection, and the pieces that Wayne would ultimately come to describe as "stuff." They want to believe, with an astounding degree of credulity, that Expert ABC or Grading Service XYZ having offered their assessment of the piece, that it's "safe" to pay such-and-such a price for it. They are "closet" collectors, who never "come out" into the light of an experience such as an EAC convention, where they might see what a real "EF" looks like. And where formerly they at least had to "bite" on somebody's retail ad, and send in their check, and having received the coin, decide whether it was "close enough" to the verbal description to be a keeper (read, "close enough to not merit the hassle of packing it up for return mail"), now they can drop thousands of dollars with impunity, in the privacy of their homes, based upon colored pixels on a computer screen! Astounding, but true.

As you say, grade equals price. So how can you possibly price a piece without knowing how to grade it? You can't. You can have a brand, spanking new guide such as the one Allan refers to, with two (count 'em--two!) quoted price levels, or Jack Robinson's, with thirty (ten different grades, and three levels of "appeal," as Allan summarizes it), but without learning to grade for yourself, they will remain nothing but records of what somebody else paid for such-and-such a piece. With the presumption that they knew what they were doing, and not caught up in "auction fever," or some other form of "irrational exuberance."

I love your term, Human Impairment Post Striking, not least because it annihilates the false distinction between "honest wear" and, what?--dishonest wear? A pinscratch is a pinscratch is a pinscratch, whether it occurred in Thomas Jefferson's coin purse in 1820, or in some anonymous owner's ill-advised attempt to pick off some surface deposit in 1920, or in removal of the coin from a stapled 2 x 2 holder in 1970. And however it happened, that impairment has to, somehow, be taken into account in establishing a fair grade/price. Rarity complicates this further; pin scratches on a Chain AMERI will inevitably be interpreted differently than pin scratches on a common variety copper. Provenance also complicates the situation. Rightly or wrongly, it does still matter who owns the coin. I well remember how, in that 1989 EAC Sale to which you refer, in your reminiscence of Wayne, certain "Mint State" coins of Ted Naftzger's were presented, which had obvious rubs of wear on the high points. . . But they were Ted's, after all, and where were you going to find anything remotely comparable?

There's no better summary comment on the current state of affairs in token pricing, too, than your quote from Thomas Paine: "Reason obeys itself; and ignorance submits to whatever is dictated to it."

Keep up the good and provocative work!

Dr. Harry Salyards—(Editor of Pennywise, Early American Coppers)

Dear Jerry,

Congratulations on an outstanding effort with your first issue as editor of the *CTCC Journal*. I know the great deal of work that goes into producing each issue and I trust all members will feel a great debt of gratitude for your contribution. I have no doubt that we can look forward to great things from the CTCC with Larry Gaye's leadership and your unbounded enthusiasm for the little hunks of metal that we all love so much. Alan Judd's (or whatever his name is at the moment) contributions are a welcome breath of fresh air.

Many others have served and continue to serve the CTCC and deserve their due, but I would like to especially point out the efforts of Michael Grogan. He was willing to take over the editorship of the journal at a time that I just could not do it anymore. If it wasn't for his willingness to shoulder the burden, I am afraid that the club might have collapsed at that time. Despite serious health challenges, he not only provided a steady hand, but greatly improved the publication. Thank you Michael for all of your generosity and hard work!

Harold Welch—CTCC VP USA

Dear Editor:

It was my sincere desire to only sing the praises of your outstanding effort with the fall 2009 issue of the Journal; however I have a serious concern. Ours is an organization of people interested in the 18th and 19th century British token coinage. We do not publish articles about Morgan dollars, health tips, celebrity romances or as I was once asked when I was editor, to publish an article concerning the body language of cats! If you wish to read about these things there are plenty of publications to which you can turn. In these "times that try men's souls" it is nice to have a chance every 3 months to settle back and enjoy a bit of respite in one's chosen hobby.

"Natterings for the Swinish Multitude - The Wrongs of Man" by Author (alias Notorious P.I.G.) treads on acrimonious ground. The article does not deal with the Thomas Paine tokens whatsoever, but uses them as a thin excuse to launch into a vitriolic political rant. Apparently Notorious P.I.G. is not enamored with the so-called "Tea Party" movement. He repeatedly calls these people "tea baggers," a name that they never have used and is in fact an insulting term for a rude sexual act. This sort of name calling says more about he who hurls it than his intended recipient and has no place in a hobby journal. A thin connection to tokens is attempted by stating that these people are intimating that they would have the support of Thomas Paine. Actually they allude to the Boston Tea Party, an event with no connection to Paine.

After I rejected his article, the fellow who wanted me to publish his article about the body language of cats rewrote the article with a mention that Thomas Spence produced some tokens depicting cats. Well it was a clever ploy, but as the article did nothing to advance our knowledge of the Spence cat tokens and he had brought them up only as an excuse to ramble on about "if a cat looks left it is hungry and if it looks right it is thirsty." The article was promptly rejected again. Notorious P.I.G. disagrees with the "Tea Party" movement. Fine, but I DON'T CARE. If he wants to write a condescending screed on the topic, then send it to a political magazine. If I want to read such blather, I will read a politi . . . wait, I don't want to read such blather.

Harold Welch—CTCC #14

Jerry:

Much respect for *CTCJ* XIV (3) or no.53, just received. If you want an opinion, your own article pp26-30 and Alan Judd's p.19 really get at the fundamentals, and truly probe the unknown. That sort of thinking is found nowhere else.

It is a marvelous service that you have undertaken. Thank-you again for what you are doing for *CTCJ*.

Tony Fox

Jerry,

Congratulations on a great inaugural issue under your editorship! Thanks for your very kind words on my Camac articles -- it is much appreciated.

I look forward to the discussions on grading and pricing. It will do us all good.

Regards,
Gregg Silvis

Jerry;

Got my latest CTCC issue and it is a primo effort. I wish you and Larry all the best.

Regards,

Jeff Friedman

Hi Jerry,

The journal was great. I think that your response to the Davisson article was appropriate and raised some good points, particularly on the relationship between prices and the somewhat ambiguous grading terminology. Publishing some kind of standard for pricing seems to be necessary on one hand, but without clearly delineated grading terms it can't be nearly as effective as most collectors might hope. Plus there is always the potential for misuse, especially in light of varied interpretations of grades and the translation of terms from GB to the US.

There is one website that I check often to see what they're up to and their prices never fail to disappoint me. On average, their asking price is double market value. They obviously have an unaware clientele, which is good for them, but I feel it has a negative impact on other collectors. I can understand wanting to make a good buck, but there is a line that any person purported to be a respectable numismatic should recognize.

For the past two years I have been working on creating a digital quick reference to be offered for sale by download. It is very nearly finished and, in my obviously biased opinion, it will be impressive. My D&H source was a nice copy of the original individual card cover chapters.

In essence it is an abridged and digitally enhanced version of D&H. I have integrated rarity ratings, colorized images, integrated addenda and corrigenda, inserted hidden text in front of each token description so to make possible an instant individual token search using the embedded search feature in Acrobat. Also I have created a dynamic index of sorts so that users can navigate to any locality by clicking on a graphically organized list of counties/denominations. This summer I completed a statistical analysis of prices at auction to append to the back of the book which simply shows average prices, dispersion in standard deviation, and the number of observations for tokens belonging to families by various combinations of condition, rarity, metal and denomination. It is not meant to be a price guide like the "Red Book" of US coins, but is intended to supply a general degree of insight on the topic of values. A note is included on the fact that some rarity ratings in D&H are incorrect and that the analysis is most applicable to prices at auction.

Best Regards,

Mike Dlugosz

Hi Jerry,

I recently got a small group from another dealer, but sent them back as all were nice for the price, but as you like to say, not "uncompromised." One or two had really fine hairlines that took a while to spot, but thankfully I did. By the way thanks for the small pointers and warnings on hairlines. I look at all pieces meticulously now and have been able to see much more than I used to. I doubt that the hairlined population has increased that significantly so it must be my eyes. It has definitely saved me a few dollars and some headache just in the past month or two alone.

All the best,

Mike Dlugosz

Jerry; compliments on a great issue! I know the Journal has been passed into good hands and will prosper.

Best wishes,

Mike Grogan

Dear Jerry,

I really enjoyed Journal #53; more passion, energy and ideas. I also received Larry's CTCC letter of October 1, 2009. We were asked for our input on the Journal.

I personally would prefer to receive a printed Journal in the mail. I have been a member since the first issue and value my complete set. I like to read the hard copy (as you suggested in the letter). Color would be nice, but if not affordable I am fine with black and white.

Thanks to Larry for "volunteering" to be President. You are welcome to share my thoughts.

Regards,
Dave Perkins
Centennial, CO

Got your letter to members. I would like the opportunity to access an online color version of the journal. Don't stop printing it – always make sure a good number are physically printed and sent gratis to all the major numismatic libraries.

Members should have the option to get the print version, an online version, or both. The print version should cost more, online only version much less.

I'd love to learn the results of your survey (and the club's decision) for a future E-Sylum article. It is a great topic for discussion that the NBS ought to have as well.

Wayne Homren
Editor, The E-Sylum

Dear Jerry:

I have always considered a hobby as an escape from the pressures of work or other seriousness of daily life. This includes current politics. It therefore saddens me to find within this Issue paragraphs inserted in an otherwise scholarly group of articles distastefully critical of one side of a current issue. Those inserted comments which detract from the value of an otherwise fine issue more properly belong on one of the severely left leaning nightly TV Talk Shows. This is of course in NATTERINGS...

If this is to become a feature of the CTCC Journal to publish anything leaning to either side of current politics which should be contrary to the purpose of any publication which presents research into a rather narrow period of history to preserve knowledge for the future it will have to proceed without me as a member. Please serve as Editor and only publish material directly related to CTCC's reason for existence, the study of these small discs of metal and their times.

James H. Suchma - Sugar Land, Texas

Dear Jerry,

Suggestion for CTCC articles: Back in the late 1950's and early 1960's Dave Bowers, then with Empire Rare Coin Co in Johnson City, NY, would frequently travel to England and bring back seemingly large hoards and quantities of red gem prooflike Condor Tokens which they'd advertise in bulk lots in their FPL's. They'd also bring back early US coppers and I distinctly recall in approx 1964 Dave & I on the phone (at my college frat house) right after he returned from a trip to England offering me two 50%+ red Unc 1804 half cents, varieties unattributed as it was then unimportant, for \$125 apiece. I bought both. I recall going to England in 1966 and going thru tray after tray of early American colonials and federal coins at various coin dealers' shops, viewing and buying superbly toned Unc coins including the finest 1820 gem toned Unc dime I've ever seen. Then the word got out... Perhaps you can convince Dave to reminisce and

write an article on the availability of unattributed gem Unc Condor tokens he'd see and buy in England back in the late 50's and early 60's.

And perhaps your (JB's) personal memories of going to the BM and seeing their Condor tokens and seeing the cavernous scraped away nose of an otherwise gem Unc Sawbridgeworth Penny that simply sat too high in its little wooden cubicle in a cabinet tray, sustaining damage each time the drawer was opened or closed.

Alan Weinberg

Dear Jerry,

I must take issue with one aspect of the article by Allan Davisson that was published in the Conder Journal no. 53 (page 25, paragraph 2), since it obviously refers to my company.

The practice of lotting tokens together is purely one of economics for tokens of lower grade and value; having said that, the care and attention Peter Preston-Morley gives these lots usually results in high returns for vendors. And actually, Allan, many collectors don't pass on a lot when they want only one piece; they'll place a bid knowing that if they're successful they can offload what they don't want online, or via their friendly token dealer.

Ever since we took the decision to stage dedicated auctions of tokens, our catalogues have become works of reference for collectors. If you look at the cataloguing and the prices achieved for the multiple lots in the R.S. Brown Collection Part I (DNW T7, 7th October 2009), I rest my case.

Christopher Webb
chris@dnw.co.uk

To the Editor,

Wow! Dave Bowers. As a coin and token enthusiast of many years – still standing, I say that the CTCC continues to keep good company.

And what a nice communication from our new president. I have missed the inclusion of the President's Message in the Journal. Very informative, interesting and "newsy."

On the subject of "Tom Tackle"-ing other issues in the family of English trade tokens; I say that we should do it. It will add a lot to the discussion and may broaden the membership.

On a final note, I would vote to continue to receive my copy of the Journal through the mail. I am aware of what the internet allows us to do and I know that there is a lot of labor involved in the editing, publishing and distribution process. But I think that there are numerous benefits to having a "hard" copy. And I would put up with an increase in dues to support it.

Tom Fredette-CTCC #60

Dear Jerry,

Congratulations to you and all others on the great issue of The Conder Token Collector's Journal. It is gorgeous, and I wish you the best of continued success.

Jerry, I will be mentioning this on our Internet site together with your address.

All good wishes.

Sincerely yours,
Q. David Bowers

(Editor's note: The CTCC and the Journal were indeed graciously mentioned in Stack's "This and That" on Monday 19th October, 2009. We thank you Dave!)

Token Congress May 2010

Following the great success of the First British-American token Congress held in Seattle, we are happy to announce that the **Second** British-American token Congress will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia in May 13-15 of 2010.

As with the previous British token Congresses, this is a great opportunity for fellow collectors to meet like minded friends to share talks, food, a bourse and most importantly, the great hobby we all share.

This time the host city is Charlottesville, located at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Charlottesville has a lot to offer drawing millions of visitors to Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, Ashlawn-Highlands, home of James Monroe, and Montpelier, home of James Madison. There are dozens of vineyards within easy reach. Forty-five minutes to the west in Staunton is the American Shakespeare Theatre that performs Shakespeare's works under their original staging conditions. A little further out is Mount Vernon, Jamestown, Yorktown and Williamsburg. And, for Civil War buffs – there is no end of battlefields and places of interest – including Petersburg and Appomattox.

The venue for the Congress will be at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia. Similar to the previous Congress, we will start with an opening and a dinner reception on Thursday May 14th. Friday will be a full day of talks and token lore, meals and breaks, and a round table discussion. Saturday will be the second full day of talks, including breaks, a second round table discussion, and followed by a Saturday night bourse which is open to all attendees. Tables for dealers and collectors are included in the cost of the Congress. The last day will be Sunday, which will start with breakfast and talks, planning to end around lunch time - leaving enough time for people who might want to go for a Monticello tour.

Dates: May 13-15, 2010

Location: The Omni Hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia

Cost: The Congress and all talks, reception dinner, meals and bourse is \$395 for the event.

We have reserved rooms at the Omni at a discounted rate of \$198.69 per night including tax. You will be responsible for making your own reservations - just let them know that you are attending the Congress - and please let them know of any special needs and whether you would like additional nights either before or after the event. If the Omni is not your first choice there are many other hotels and B&B's in the area – but the Omni is the most convenient.

Keep in mind there is limited space for around 100 people, so please reserve as soon as possible, as the hotel rooms have to be secured sooner rather than later.

Please feel free to suggest any ideas or suggestions on how to make this Congress better. At the end of the day, the Congress is organized for you and for you to enjoy, so if you have suggestions on the round table discussions, topics, etc. please speak up now as now is the time to do it.

The Congress is supported by the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association, the Conder Token Collector's Club, and sponsored by the London auction house Dix Noonan and Webb. For further information and costs, please contact the Congress organizers:

Alberto Washington at albertowashington@hotmail.com

Gary Groll at ggroll@aol.com

The Omni Hotel at 1-888-444-OMNI

Directory of Club Officers and Appointees

President

Larry Gaye
P.O. Box 1456
Beaverton, OR 97008
(503) 579-6416
light.man@verizon.net

Treasurer

Scott Loos
PO Box 2210
North Bend WA 98045
(425) 831-8789
scottloos@msn.com

Vice President USA and Librarian

Harold Welch
655 Parkwood Circle
Saint Paul MN 55127
(651) 429-0997
tokenmann@aol.com

Editor & Design

Jerry Bobbe
P.O. Box 25817
Portland, OR 97298
(503) 626-1075
jbobbe@comcast.net

Vice President International

Alan Judd
P.O. Box 19 Beeston Notts
NG9 2NE England
MICOBWRIGHT@aol.com

Membership

Rachel Irish
101 W. Prairie Center #323
Hayden ID 83835
mrIrish5@adelphia.net

Publisher: Dr. Gary Sriro (gsriro@gmail.com)

Technical Assistance: Nathan Fretta

Number

549
550
551
552
553
554
555
556

Welcome New Members

Richard Wilson
Q David Bowers
William Frank
Michael J Kohn
George Huber
Robert H Thompson
Charmy Harker
Stefanie Haydu

Location

Uxbridge, MA
Wolfeboro, NH
Welches, OR
Bakersfield, CA
Bristol, VA
Harrow, Middlesex, England
Irvine, CA
Lomita, CA

Rejoined Members

247
314
393

Robert Rhue
Gary Sriro
Ron Gammill

Denver, CO
Vancouver, WA
Chelsea, MI

Deceased Members

May our dear friends remain forever in our hearts.

40
50

Arvid Frank
Don Valenziano

Santa Rosa, CA
Frankfort, IL

THE TOKEN EXCHANGE AND MART



OUR RULES: CTCC members, in good standing, are cordially invited to dispatch their articles and advertisements to the CTCC editor for publication in the Journal. Articles are always needed and appreciated. Articles do not have to be print ready, but I appreciate it when they are. Articles are always published free of charge for the benefit of the membership. Advertisements are needed and appreciated just as much. Ads up to twelve lines are **FREE**, but must pertain to British tokens. Full-page ads are \$100.00; half-page ads are \$50.00. Ads larger than the free twelve lines **must be ready to print.** All paid ads **must be paid for when submitted,** thus eliminating the possibility of confusion and the need for costly, unnecessary, and time-consuming billings and follow up. Ads submitted without full payment will not be accepted or published. Ads or articles may be either accepted or rejected at the discretion of the editor. Only members can participate in the Journal or other Club activities. Journals are issued quarterly. **The deadline for the SPRING issue is March 15, 2010.** Your articles and ads must be sent to the editor, Jerry Bobbe, P.O. Box 25817, Portland, OR 97298, with e-mail addressed to jbobbe@comcast.net. The only requirement for membership is the payment of an annual membership fee. You will be billed again after you have received four issues of the Journal. The "Conder" Token Collector's Club reserves the right to accept or reject (without explanation) any application for membership. The "Conder" Token Collector's Club reserves the right to revise these rules at any time in accordance with our by-laws.

ANNUAL DUES: \$25.00 U.S. Membership - £20 U.K Membership
\$35 Non U.S. or U.K. Membership

NOTICE: The "Conder" Token Collector's Club, publisher of The "Conder" Token Collector's Journal, assumes no responsibility or liability for advertisements or articles published in the Journal. No party shall have recourse against the "Conder" Token Collector's Club, or its officers, officials or appointees for any reason associated with the publication of its Journal. All transactions arising from or relating to advertisements in The "Conder" Token Collector's Club Journal are strictly between the parties to the transaction. Complaints concerning advertisers or respondents should be directed to the President of the "Conder" Token Collector's Club. Valid complaints can result in termination of membership and/or advertising privileges.

Free Advertisements

These ads, 12 lines or less, are free for CTCC members, and must pertain to British tokens. Send ads to the editor: jbobbe@comcast.net

M. Monarch, Esq., Numismatist

CTCC# 4, EAC#184, ANA LM1059

Hopelessly addicted to "Conders" for nearly forty years. I specialize in beautiful condition, rarities and spectacular die states; always keen to buy, sell, or trade the series.

Jerry Bobbe

Email jbobbe@comcast.net

P.O. Box 25817

Tel: (503) 626-1075

Portland, OR, 97298

Wanted!

Hampshire tokens and medallions from all periods.

Books by Pye 1801 and after, and Davis & Waters 1922.

Michael Knight, 30c Malvern Road, Southsea, Hants, PO5 2NA, United Kingdom

mikeknight@tinyworld.co.uk

SERIOUS COLLECTOR OF SERIOUSLY ODD THINGS!

I am interested in purchasing for my collection varieties that I lack in the areas of:

- Off-Metal Conder Tokens (silver, white metal, brass, lead, gilt) and Conder Token Errors.
- Evasion Halfpennies and Farthings.
- U.S. Colonial Coinage.
- French Colonies Coinage for use in North America.
- Blacksmith tokens.
- Counterfeit British and Irish Halfpence and Farthings.

Highest prices paid for things I need, and immediate payment – no purchase too large or too small! If you have anything in these areas for sale, please contact me!

Jeff Rock, Box 3447, San Diego, CA 92163. (619) 280-6737. E-mail: RosaAmLtd@aol.com

ABC Coins and Tokens

We specialise in Conder Tokens and also stock a wide range of hammered and milled Scottish, British and World coins, and numismatic books. All our Conders are fully illustrated and written up on our web site so that you can buy with confidence.

Contact **David Stuart** at:

Alnwick British and Colonial Coins and Tokens

P. O. Box 52, Alnwick, Northumberland

NE66 1YE United Kingdom

Website: www.abccoinsandtokens.com

E-mail: d-stuart@d-stuart.demon.co.uk

Telephone : 44[0] 1665 603851

ORIGINAL ANTIQUE MAP OF ENGLAND AND WALES – 1816

Beautiful old hand coloring - Professional archival framing

Framed size approximately 16"X 20"

\$225 postpaid in the U.S.

REQUEST AN EMAIL IMAGE

Michael Grogan 6501 Middleburg Ct Mobile AL 36608

mngrogan@comcast.net

An interesting selection of 18th century British Tokens
plus some Regal & Colonial Coins and a few Odds and Ends
Many tokens currently listed on our web site and inventory is updated frequently.
Please take a look ~ comments and commentary welcome.
Always in the market to buy ~ contact me at your convenience.
Gary Groll CTCC-EAC-C4-ANA
906 Taxus Dr., Suite 203 Odenton, MD 21113
443.223.0399 ~ gary@grollcoins.com ~ www.grollcoins.com

TONY FEIN - PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATIST
Medieval, Modern Coins, Hammered Coinage and Ancients
VISIT MY WEB STORE www.vcoins.com/world/tonyfein Photos in full color
Click on "TOKENS & MEDALS"
New items are added to my stores daily.
I AM ALSO BUYING ALL BETTER COINS & COLLECTIONS
Please call or write, or ship with your price, for my generous offer.
Please include a phone number or e-mail address, it will be worthwhile!
You can see me at the Baltimore Coin Show, three times a year.
Tony Fein CTCC#278 PO Box 17672 Clearwater, FL 33762-0672
Phone (727) 536-7475 e-mail tonyfein@aol.com

BILL McKIVOR'S COPPER CORNER
Fair prices, fast service. Lists sent snail mail or E-mail. See large ad inside cover.
17th, 18th and 19th century British tokens, Hard Times tokens, Civil war items.
(206) 244-8345 Satisfaction Guaranteed Always. POB 46135 Seattle, WA 98146
BUYING AND SELLING----18 YEARS
BNS--ANA--C-4--EAC--PNNA--SNS--MCA---AND CTCC#3.
WEBSITE--- www.thecoppercorner.com E-MAIL Copperman@Thecoppercorner.com

Wanted: Choice 1793 United States Wreath Cents
I realize this journal is largely for Condor token collectors. But I'm a CTCC member & many of you, perhaps in Europe, will encounter the Wreath cents I need. I'm a serious longtime EAC member & appreciate the beauty of all early coppers. I need Sheldon 5, 8 and 9 varieties; 8 & 9 being common varieties. But I'm looking for choice pieces - utterly problem-free, good color, free of rim dings & eye-appealing, which will EAC-grade (not slab grade) EF-40 to AU-58. I will pay top dollar for the right coins.
Also seeking pre-1900 American silver or gold Agricultural or Mechanical Society medals.
Alan V. Weinberg CTCC # 545, EAC #1899 - 23321 Aetna St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Tel: 818-348-3749 email: larislw@aol.com

164 PAGE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE
The latest edition of our catalogue of numismatic items for sale (that has been issued regularly for 32 years) is now ready. It includes thousands of British tokens as well as commemorative medals and coins from all over the world. The catalogue is free on request, but please include \$2 to cover airmail postage when applying to the address below (with apologies for it's un-American length).
Whitmore, CTCC #264 Teynham Lodge Chase Road, Colwall
Malvern Wores. NMI3 6DT England

I Need You!!!

To let me know about your classic token literature. Several members have answered my appeals for information about their Pre WWII token books. Thanks to those kind folks. However, if my book in progress, *The Virtuoso's Arrangement*, is to be anywhere near complete, I need more members to step forward to help. If you own any original books on British tokens of the 18th and 19th centuries, I really need to hear from you. Does your book have a past ownership inscription? Perhaps it has annotations or letters or other ephemera laid in. If it is a numbered edition, which copy is it? I will give you credit or keep you anonymous - whatever you prefer. Thanks for your help!

Harold Welch (651) 429-0997 tokenmann@aol.com
655 Parkwood Circle St. Paul, MN 55127

LARGE SELECTION OF CHOICE CONDER TOKENS

Hello to everyone! I have a large selection, mostly XF to Choice BU as well as nice, inexpensive VFs. I have 1,000 other world and U.S. tokens and medals, including many choice French and British medals of the Napoleon era and hundreds of German medals. I take tables at ANA, NYINC, CICF, Baltimore, and White Plains.

Donald Young CTCC #182
P.O. BOX 457, FDR STATION, NEW YORK, NY 10150
(212) 593-0010; numiscribe@aol.com

CTCC Back Issues for Sale!

The club has a very limited supply of some back issues of *The CTCC Journal*.

They are being offered at \$5.00 each ppd.

Available issues: 5, 14, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40

Please don't send payment with your order, you will receive a bill with your Journals.

Send inquiries to:

Harold Welch 655 Parkwood Circle, St. Paul, MN 55127
(651) 429-0997 e-mail: tokenmann@aol.com

Issues of the CTCC Journal Now available to our membership in Full Length Colour

**A spectacular and beautiful addition to your token library,
the likes of which are beyond all human comprehension.**

Journal #54 copies available for \$13 each ppd, while supplies last. Future individual colour issues or yearly subscriptions may be ordered in advance, with any profits going to the CTCC.
E-mail editor if interested: Jerry Bobbe—jbobbe@comcast.net



Enthusiastic buyers, sellers and students of the 18th Century British Token series.

We offer tokens for every pocketbook and interest from the rare and spectacular to those used in everyday commerce. Our website and occasional lists will provide you with an ever growing and eclectic selection for your consideration.

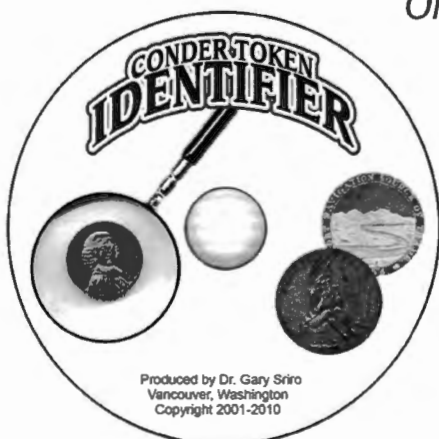
Jerry Bobbe: (503) 626-1075
ANA Life Member #1059, CTCC #4, EAC #184
www.vcoins.com/world/cheapsidetokens

Larry Gaye: (503) 579-6416
ANA Life Member #5574, CTCC #55, EAC #4152
Email: cheapsidetokens@vcoins.com

P.O. Box 25817 Portland, OR 97298

The 2009 Scans CD

with **3,850 high resolution images** is now here. Each token also has a **population number** backed by 11 years of data. A **modern rarity guide** is also included. **An excellent reference tool.** All for a low, low \$39 plus shipping.



Ordering? Questions?
Dr. Gary Siro
gsiro@gmail.com
360-944-2054



The Conder Token Identifier

This CD is a wonderful **speed accessory** to the D&H book. It will find **most D&H numbers almost instantly**. The price is only \$35 plus shipping.

These CDs are copyright protected and may not be reproduced or sold - including the originals.

The Provincial Token-Coinage of the 18th Century

Digital Quick Reference

(A labor of love culminating in an amazingly efficient resource for all collectors.)

What's in it for the Novice? *Everything !* It's more than an extremely **cost-effective** alternative to buying a hard copy of D&H. It provides all of the **essential content** of D&H and the need-to-know facts about the original reference. Incorporates a discussion on rarity, token composition analysis, collecting tips, value study, and an excellent article on the history of the series courtesy of Professor George Selgin.

What's in it for the Connoisseur? *A lot !* Everything has been **completely integrated and reformatted**. **Unique search-ability** and **tons of intra-document links** make sifting through the hundreds of pages in D&H nearly effortless...and includes a **price analysis** to boot! *Details below, Read on...*

- ✓ **Statistical Price Analysis:** Based on a large database of price data collected from 2005-2009. Study shows average prices, indicates price ranges based on token families: Condition and Rarity, Condition-Denomination and Rarity, and Condition-Metal and Rarity. Results in GBP and USD
- ✓ **Streamlined Content and Vastly Improved Organization:** Complete integration of all rarity ratings and extra information, including the accurate info from the addenda and corrigenda...remedying the disjointed nature of the original reference.
- ✓ **Instant Token Search:** Special modifications we've made to the file allow you to locate any specific token, every time, INSTANTLY, using the simple search feature. ***Absolutely no page scrolling needed!!!***
- ✓ **Graphically Organized Click Index:** Click and go to any county/denomination INSTANTLY. It makes navigating D&H nearly effortless. Plus, it gives you an excellent overall picture of the entire, massive, Conder Token series. Tons of other intra-document links throughout greatly enhance the user experience.
- ✓ **Fully Illustrated with Thousands of Colourised Images:** Mules are no longer just cross-referenced, we have provided direct illustration for the vast majority of these pieces too – This is a nice change for those well acquainted with D&H, and it is a huge time saver for the novice.
- ✓ **Fully Printable:** print any pages including the price analysis and take them with you in your travels.
- ✓ **Zoom-able:** Zoom in for larger images or text or zoom out for super fast scrolling.
- ✓ **Expertly Optimized File Size** for the right balance between responsiveness and image resolution.

AVAILABLE SOON FOR PURCHASE AND INSTANT DOWNLOAD AT www.ConderTokenBook.com

Projected Publication Date: February 2010

London, Wednesday, October 6th 2010, 10 AM
The Important Collection of 18th Century Tokens
formed by the late Robinson S. Brown Jr (Part II)
and other properties

The David Griffiths Reference Library of
Numismatic Books and Ephemera

This auction, in the week following the COINEX show in London, features the Middlesex tokens from the Brown collection. Additionally, American-related material from the Brown holdings will be offered in our auction of World Coins on Wednesday, September 29th.

The Griffiths Library sale represents the most important dispersal of token books by public auction in recent times and includes distinguished annotated volumes once owned by Dalton, Hamer, Davis, Waters and many other luminaries.

Our expertise in Conders and British trade tokens dates back to the 1960s and we've been auctioning tokens of all types since 1993. For further information or to consign material, please contact Peter Preston-Morley.



DIX NOONAN WEBB

16 Bolton Street Piccadilly
London W1J 8BQ England

Telephone 44 20 7016 1700 Fax 44 20 7016 1799

Email ppm@dnw.co.uk



www.dnw.co.uk

**A couple of New Year's Resolutions*

1. **More web presence.** (Look for tokens to be offered on our Vcoins site beginning in February.)
2. **Keep paper-and-ink preferences in our publication program.** (If you bid on tokens in Auction 28, you will receive our first 2010 printed token list. If you prefer this format, you can let us know then and we will maintain a limited mailing list, including color photos, for tokens.)



**Resolutions about tokens, not token resolutions!*

Auction 28 closed on December 17th with strong bidding from multiple bidders on most of the tokens. Most sold for well above estimate. A few are still available. For those of you who still have the catalog (also available at www.britishcoins.com), check out the following and their after-sale prices:

Lot 525: Msex 804c (\$110). Lot 900: Msex 900 (\$250). Lot 571: Msex 1095a (\$120). Lot 576: Msex III3 (\$120). Lot 582: Angus 39 bis (\$120). Lot 585: Lanark 20 (\$90). Lot 587: Lanark 21 (\$90). Lot 589: Lanark 30 (\$110). Lot 591: Lanark 43 (\$150). Lot 592: Lanark 50 (\$90). Lot 593: Lanark 51 (\$190). Lots 605, 606, 609, 613 and 614 are also available at a discount from estimate.

The Szauer collection of Irish countermarks has been sold. However, I have a full set of color photographs (6 pages) that are available for \$10 including postage.



**Davissons
Ltd.**

Cold Spring, MN 56320

320-685-3835 • 24 hr FAX 320-685-8636

email: coins@davissons.net

Allan Davisson, Ph.D.

EAC 3299. A.N.A., A.N.S., Royal N.S., British N.S., C.T.C.C. 6